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Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-94-242 *16 December 1994*

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Date of Next Summit Remains in Question

LD1512230894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2056 GMT 15 Dec 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The next CIS summit in Alma-Ata [Almaty] earlier scheduled for December 23 is likely to be put off.

According to Interfax sources in Minsk, the presidents of nine CIS states (all, except for Heydar Aliyev and Nursultan Nazarbayev) sent the chairman of the CIS Heads-of-State Council, Russian President Boris Yeltsin, a letter on December 14 asking him to put off the next summit until January or February 1995.

According to information available at Interfax, Yeltsin is positive about this initiative. Experts believe that such attitude was caused by the need to concentrate his attention on the settlement in Chechnya.

The date of the next CIS summit is expected to be fixed within the next two or three days.

The summit was supposed to continue finalizing specific mechanisms for the implementation of the treaties on the CIS Economic Union and the CIS Interstate Economic Committee.

The heads of state are expected to decide on the future of two such important documents as draft principles of the CIS states' customs legislations and a draft methodology for customs statistics of foreign trade. Their signing could open the way to creating a single customs union within the CIS.

A package of documents on social issues was prepared for the summit, including agreements on an interstate fund for refugees, additional privileges and material aid for participants of the WWII, workers of defense industries and widows of those killed.

The CIS leaders are to approve Russian Deputy Prime Minister Yuriy Yarov proposed by the CIS Heads-of-Government Council as chairman of the Interstate Economic Committee Collegium and define the powers of this body.

More on CIS Council Discussion of Common Market, Debts

MM1612105094 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 16 Dec 94 p 5

[Report by Viktor Orlov on the 9 December CIS Heads of Government Council session in Moscow, under the rubric "Parliamentarians' Dossier": "On a Common Market, Customs, and Defaults on a Cosmic Scale"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The session of the CIS Heads of Government Council which took place in Moscow 9 December is unlikely to be classified by analysts of integration processes as unconditionally productive. With the exception of Yuriy Yarov's appointment to the post of chairman of the collegium of the Interstate Economic Committee, the examination of the remaining questions was confined mainly to recommendations.

A significant part of the recent session was devoted to a discussion of economic problems and the adoption of corresponding documents. The majority of these are in some way connected with the implementation of the treaty on creating the CIS Economic Union, basically a common market. Two lengthy documents are designed to facilitate and accelerate the formation of a single customs area. This problem, following the adoption of an agreement on the creation of a payments union, is now one of the priorities, because resolving it will mean the completion of one of the most important stages in the construction of the legal framework of the Economic Union.

This ought to present no difficulties from a populist viewpoint. Peoples and politicians, sick and tired of sovereignties, would be passionately eager to march hand in hand to any bright "tomorrow." But this is one of those cases where wishes do not coincide with possibilities. Today we have to speak of fairly serious differences in the pace and depth of the reforms being carried out in the CIS countries. Russia, for instance, has passed through two very important phases of the reforms—price liberalization and privatization. In other republics this work is only at the planning stage. In Russia, for all the colossal drawbacks, nonetheless it is already possible to speak seriously about three forms of ownership: state, joint-stock, and private. And this fact, which has simplified relations with the West, creates insuperable barriers in our own Commonwealth.

In Russia, for instance, customs restrictions have been imposed on the importation of foreign motor vehicles from third countries, in order to protect our own producers. Other CIS countries which have no motor vehicle plants are, on the contrary, interested in opening borders to these products. It is not hard to imagine the customs "loopholes" that could be created here.

Mutual payment defaults also do nothing to promote integration. It is well known that in order to facilitate the Commonwealth partners' transition to new conditions of economic cooperation the Russian Government granted these countries state credits equivalent to 5.6 billion U.S. dollars from the time of the initial formation of the CIS. However, these credits, far from solving the defaults problem, actually exacerbated the debts, and in the view of Russian Government head Viktor Chernomyrdin the process of extinguishing these debts is proceeding extremely unsatisfactorily. Consequently it is necessary here too to change the situation radically and put into practice the principle of mutual benefit and giving priority to relations with CIS countries over other countries. But how is this to be done in practice?

In 1995, the Russian premier said, Russia will be forced to introduce prepayment into trade and economic agreements and contracts for the delivery of goods, and as a necessary

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condition—in order to solve the debt problems—to impose financial liability for delay in payments. Is that fair? Certainly. But you should have heard the silence in the auditorium when V. Chernomyrdin stated that in the sphere of settlements for deliveries "we have reached the limit." And there is nowhere else to go. Especially as regards debts to the Russian fuel and energy complex. On 1 November 1994 this debt totaled 7.5 trillion rubles, of which nearly 6.6 trillion was for gas. The Gazprom, according to V. Chernomyrdin, is obliged to raise the question of reducing deliveries of gas to defaulting countries.

Tremendous work has to be done in order to create a single economic area. First and foremost in leveling out economic legislation and creating a single economic mechanism. And that will take considerable time and effort, first and foremost by the parliaments of the Commonwealth countries.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 16 Dec

LD1612072194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0631 GMT 16 Dec 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 16 TASS—All Moscow-based newspapers continue to cover developments in Chechnya.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR) emphasises that "the only purpose of the military operation in Chechnya is to restore the constitutional order."

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA on the Dzhokhar Dudayev regime's actions in Chechnya:

"Not a single civilised country in the world would have tolerated such an outrage on its constitutional set-up, such a threat to its territorial integrity or such a disregard for the rights and freedoms of its people."

At the same time, in another article, the newspaper quotes Sergey Filatov, presidential chief of staff, as saying in an ITAR-TASS interview that "negotiations still remain the only way to settle the situation in Chechnya".

IZVESTIYA states, for its part, that "negotiations are still possible but Groznyy awaits an assault". "Considering the number of armoured columns moved to one city, the armada of aircraft involved and the number of generals' minds at work, the following conclusion suggests itself: either General Dudayev is highly respected or he is greatly feared".

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, upon analysing Thursday's fighting on the territory of Chechnya, believes that "Chechen troops are doomed to destruction". However, the newspaper emphasises that "Dzhokhar Dudayev's supporters are ready for guerrilla warfare".

TRUD carries an interview with Lieutenant-General Aleksandr Lebed, commander of the 14th Russian Army, who told the newspaper by telephone in comment on the latest developments in Chechnya that he disapproves of such a "poorly prepared invasion, and even a headlong one at that, although it is a question of part of the Russian territory and the issue, in general, concerns the destiny of Russia".

General Lebed believes that "a quick victory cannot be achieved by the use of tanks, artillery and aircraft alone".

The press also give prominence to enhanced security measures taken in Moscow after Russian troops were brought to Chechnya territory.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA:

"Spokesmen for Russia's law enforcement agencies believe that a calm atmosphere is guaranteed for the people of Moscow. Units of the separate special-purpose division are on a stand-by alert and can also be used to maintain order in the capital."

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA points out that "although it is long since the capital saw such a massive presence of armed patrols, the probability of terrorist acts in Moscow is still high enough".

According to the newsppaer, which refers to "a confidential source in one of Russian special services", the demolition of a bridge over Yauza River in Moscow on November 18 was organised by one of leaders of a Chechen criminal group.

IZVESTIYA carries a brief report on the stay of U.S. Vice-President Albert Gore in Moscow. The newspaper points out that Mr Gore described as very productive his Wednesday's meeting with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA points out that "no chill in relations was felt at the fourth session of the Russian-U.S. Intergovernmental Commission on Economic and Technological Cooperation. The session was declared open in Moscow on Thursday by Chernomyrdin and Mr Gore.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA carries an article by its news analyst who comments on the U.S. striving for the expansion of the role of NATO in Europe.

The analyst emphasises that "the peoples of Europe are now required to make the right choice. There is no doubt that this cannot be a choice for a Europe without Russia, just as a Europe without the United States. Both such choices would only result in Europe's self-isolation."

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA reports referring to Yuriy Yurkov, chairman of the Russian State Committee for Statistics that the country's inflation rate in the first week of December was 3.9 percent, as against 14.1 percent in November.

Russia is in the lead in the world by the share of the black market in the national economy. The shadow economy accounts for about 20 percent of Russia's gross domestic product, Yurkov pointed out.

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Yeltsin, Gore Hold 'Unofficial' Meeting at Moscow Clinic

LD1612092994 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 16 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] INTERFAX has learned from well-informed sources that a meeting took place on Friday at the central clinic on the western outskirts of Moscow between Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who is there for treatment, and U.S. Vice President Albert Gore. It was of an unofficial nature, Kremlin sources stressed.

Gore, Shumeyko Discuss Relations, SALT Treaties

LD1612115394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1050 GMT 16 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Dec. 16 (INTERFAX)—U.S. Vice President Albert Gore believes that the results of mid-term elections will not affect the Russian-U.S. relations.

He told Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko that there would not justify an increase of the U.S. or Russian military budget. [sentence as received] Gore felt that the two U.S. major political parties adhered to the basic principles of new partnership relations between the two countries.

He welcomed the coming into force of the SALT-1 treaty and said that the U.S. Administration was starting work on having SALT-2 ratified. Shumeyko said that the Federation Council would see to what extent SALT-2 was in Russian interests. The two men expressed the hope that the treaty would be signed next year when the presidents of the two countries met.

Gore Cited on Extended Session With Chernomyrdin

MM1512155794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Dec 94 p 1

[INTERFAX report: "Gore and Chernomyrdin Speak Productively and at Length"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin opened a plenary sitting of the Russian-U.S. Commission for Economic and Technological Cooperation in Moscow on Thursday. U.S. Vice President Albert Gore, who has come to Moscow for the sitting, reported that his meeting with Viktor Chernomyrdin on Wednesday was "very productive" and lasted an hour and a half longer than planned, "because we were moving forward very well in resolving the issues that emerged."

Meetings Said To Belie 'Cooling' Relations

MK1612091094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Dec 94 p 1

[Report by Vladimir Sanko under the "Cooperation" rubric: "No Cooling Off in Relations Was Felt. Gore-Chernomyrdin Commission Holds Plenary Meeting"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian Federation Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and U.S. Vice President Albert Gore opened the fourth session of the Russian-American intergovernment commission on economic and technological cooperation at the Moscow President Hotel yesterday.

The opening of the commission's plenary meeting was preceded by its cochairmen's working meetings. In their common view, the meetings were intensive and productive. According to Albert Gore, "We are seeking a real increase in trade and a greater influx of investment, which would help the Russian economy at the transition period."

A total of 19 joint projects are due to be discussed, which are currently being dealt with by the subcommissions on energy matters (in particular, the development of the Ob oil field), science and technology (conversion projects, the construction of a nuclear material storage facility at the "Mayak" production association), health, space cooperation (in this area a number of projects are already being implemented), and the environment (matters concerning the environment of the Arctic water area). The subcommissions are headed by chiefs of the two countries' corresponding agencies.

Yesterday, Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Shafranik said that the meeting defined the main areas of the energy policy for the first half of 1995. Mr. Shafranik "did not sense any cooling off in relations."

Commentator Views Gore Visit in Chechnya Context

MM1612091994 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 16-19 Dec 94 p 3

[Article by Yelena Ovcharenko: "What Will Gore Do for Us?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] ...One can only be amazed at the geographical knowledge of Russia's partners—they have now learned that something called Chechnya and a city called Groznyy exist. And the Kremlin's military terminology—"blockading," "convoys are advancing," and "offensive on attackers"—instead of the universally recognized "surrounding," "bringing in troops," and "intervention" has also been accepted virtually unreservedly by our partners. The reaction of the international community and primarily one capital (Washington for the slow-witted), as defined by our Boris Nikolayevich who has once again suddenly gone down with a "planned" illness, is uncommonly unequivocal. "Buddy Bill" and official diplomatic department and government spokesmen seem to have read the same text saying that "Chechnya is an inalienable part of Russia, it is the Russian Federation's internal affair" and voicing the traditional wishes that the "matter be resolved without major bloodshed." It is good to look on from the sidelines....

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However, the West's unanimity is quite obvious and can only be welcomed: It is a good thing that they are not sending peacekeeping contingents to our country. After all, separatism is a common enemy. Britain, France, Spain—there is not one country that has not experienced this threat in one way or another. Plus the common fear of militant Islam. That is why Tehran's effective support for "Chechen independence" is indeed no coincidence; Tehran has protested via its press organs the "Russian domination" and, during the Islamic conference in Casablanca, Muslim leaders discussed the "Chechen issue" extremely seriously.

At this time Chechnya has pushed a far weightier issue off newspaper front pages, namely the question of whether NATO's ranks will be swelled by former "Warsaw Pact members" and what is to be done with Bosnia-Herzegovina. After all, it was because of this that Bill and Boris, who are suffering from a common nasopharyngal ailment, "fell out" in Budapest. And a certain Albert Gore, who is not such a powerful figure but important in the U.S. administrative hierarchy, has arrived here in Moscow. The U.S. press, in conjunction with Andrey Vladimirovich [Kozyrev], our former "Russia's Democratic Choice member," admit that the talks in Moscow "will be complex." The range of topics of conversation is extensive—space projects, oil business, international problems. Nor is Secretary of Defense William Perry's presence in Moscow any coincidence at all. But what will Gore really be bringing "up?"

Rybkin, Vice President Gore Discuss NATO Expansion

LD1512172094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1258 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, December 15 (Interfax)—It is increasingly obvious that parliaments play an important role in the life of Russia and the U.S., said Vice President Albert Gore on Wednesday at a meeting with State Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin.

Rybkin told Gore that at present the Duma is considering Russia's taxation, banking and water codes.

Gore praised the activity of Russia's State Duma. According to him, it is conducive to establishing good relations between Russia and the U.S.

Rybkin expressed concern about prospects for quick expansion of NATO. Gore answered that he understands Russia's anxiety. Our goal is to maintain stability in Europe, he said. The U.S. and Russia can cooperate in this area. There are no schedules for admitting countries to NATO, he said.

Talks on NATO 'Quite Hopeful'

LD1512225894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2049 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Murmansk, Dec 15 (Interfax)—In an interview with Interfax Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev called results of the negotiations between Albert Gore, Viktor Chernomyrdin, and representatives of the Russian Foreign Ministry regarding the signing of documents on cooperation between Russia and NATO held Thursday [15 December] morning as "quite hopeful."

In his words, "the matter does not concern a mass expansion of NATO." Kozyrev said that the issue "of the development of the North Atlantic Alliance and on its evolution" is the "key" one. According to Kozyrev, there is no precise answer to these questions "and talks about NATO's expansion give an impression of hastiness in Russia."

On Thursday Kozyrev, a deputy of the State Duma, came to Murmansk to meet with voters.

Afanasyevskiy Urges Discussion With NATO

LD1512202294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1900 GMT 15 Dec 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: reports by "our diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov and others"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Dec. 15 (Interfax)—"An accelerated and all-out" expansion of NATO, the discussion of which has been resumed on the initiative of the most active Atlantic circles, creates a situation which cannot be accepted by many countries, not by Russia alone," Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Nikolay Afanasyevskiy told Interfax.

"However, the transformation of NATO, announced by this alliance four years ago, is quite another matter," he continued. "The CSCE and other European bodies will be growing stronger, too, and every country will find a place on the future European scene," he said.

He said that "every sovereign state and every union is free to determine its own security interests and methods of protecting them." "But what real consequences will a hasty and thoughtless expansion of NATO entail in Europe? We don't see any reasons for this today," he said.

The Russian side would like to understand what stands behind the plans to increase the number of NATO members, and whether all possible consequences of such a move have been taken into account, he continued.

To quote Afanasyevskiy, "many questions arise which will take time to be answered, including by NATO itself." "We must say that there is no unanimity on this problem in NATO and propose discussing it jointly," he said.

In his opinion, Russia's constructive position, set forth in clear terms by President Yeltsin during the CSCE summit was "treated with understanding in the West."

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"The NATO countries and the alliance itself do not view Russia as a source of threat," he went on to say. We do not see any threat coming from the West, either. And yet, NATO is far from being a cultural-educational club. It is a military-political organization. "What's the reason then to discuss the importance of formulating any criteria next year and begin talks on the admission of new members to NATO?" said the Russian diplomat.

Afanasyevskiy said that all this talk may have the sole purpose of "creating unbacked illusions". "The membership of NATO gives rise to a number of questions, including the ones pertaining to military tactics and the location of foreign troops and even nuclear weapons," he said. "Isn't there an obvious contradiction with the current statements about the necessity of building a single Europe without old and new barriers?" said Afanasyevskiy.

Speaking about the possibility of Russia's future membership of NATO, he said that NATO does not exclude Russia from the list of potential members. "Formally, NATO is an open union, but in practice the NATO members are faced with many questions: should it be preserved as a long-created nucleus, or should it be expanded and transformed? Transformed to what?" he continued.

He said that if "the announced transformation proceeds more vigorously and quickly than now, its is one thing." "In the meantime, however, the moment the discussion switches over to CSCE's relations with other European organizations, one can hear the argument that NATO must determine nearly all European affairs. Even NATO's relations with U.N. are being built on an inequitable basis, with preference given to NATO's interests. "This is not the way to deal with anyone," he said.

He said that he can "hardly imagine Russia's joining an untransformed NATO." "I think the rapprochement between Russia and NATO will be mutual. And of course, with Russia NATO will be a different organization," he said.

He believes that NATO should evolve from "a bloc prepared for a global war with the East, into a instrument of peacekeeping and response to local conflicts, open for cooperation with the East."

In his opinion, there are many difficulties on this way. "It is not at all easy to target to other tasks the integrated and national military system, which was preparing for decades for a total war in Europe," he noted.

"There are also fears lest some unexpected and untoward developments might take place in the East, including Russia. "It is difficult for me to judge how real these fears are," he went on to say. "But if one is overly concentrated on these fears, one may bring down evil by one's own prophesies. On the one hand, there is talk about new special relations of partnership with Russia, but on the other, there is a great deal of restraint and alienation. This is rather alarming," he said.

He shares the belief that many of NATO's staffers oppose the idea of the bloc's hasty expansion, proposed by the U.S. "Representatives of the NATO apparatus in Brussels and in many member-states are expressing serious doubts about this idea and propose calculating everything first. They suggest finding out what this will mean in the political and strategic respect for the bloc itself and for Europe; how much this will cost, and what the security of the alliance should be based on - defense, preparations for an attack or something else," he said.

"The Russian position is as follows: If any countries, including central European ones, have the feeling of being insecure or insufficiently secure, let's think together, where these fears are coming from," he went on to say. "Russia is a full-fledged participant in European affairs and we are not indifferent to our image in other parts of Europe. We have stated on many occasions that we are ready to consider any variant in order to stabilize the situation. If guarantees are needed, we are ready to discuss them. If mutual commitments are needed, we are ready to provide them. However, a hasty expansion of NATO will not provide any answers to these questions. Moreover, it may create a lot of new problems," he said.

"Many think that in any case, one should seek an all-European stabilization base in the sphere of trust, military-political measures, disarmament and control over armament," he said. "For the moment, there is no talk about any collective-security agreement. The partners are not ready for it yet. However, a way to a treaty has been laid already. This is one of the main achievements of the latest CSCE summit," said Afanasyevskiy.

"An advancement towards an organization of security and cooperation in Europe clearly made itself felt during the Budapest summit. An organization with a structure and mechanisms of taking and implementing decisions," he said.

He pointed out that in Budapest the delegates had discussed whether the CSCE can become a structure similar to NATO, capable of replacing this alliance in the future.

Asked how Russia understands partnership relations with NATO, Afanasyevsky said: "In the political sphere, it's a considerable predictability of positions and actions." He said that the Russia-NATO individual partnership program envisages a "definite mechanism of political consultations on the most acute European problems, above all hotbeds of tensions."

"In the future, the concept of partnership is expected to raise relations, including in the military-political sphere, to a qualitatively new level, actually to the level of an alliance," he said.

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Bomb Threat Cancels Tipper Gore's Visit to School

LD1612093694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0905 GMT 16 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Khabotin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 16 Dec—A meeting, scheduled for 1000 this morning, between Tipper Gore, the U.S. vice president's wife, and pupils at Moscow's secondary school No. 1243 did not take place. Shortly before the meeting, the duty section of the Moscow city internal affairs directorate (the "02 service) [the police emergency telephone number] was telephoned by an unknown person, who declared that a bomb had been placed in the school. All lessons were immediately suspended and the children were evacuated from the building until the situation could be investigated. At the insistence of the security service, Tipper Gore was forced to abandon the school visit.

Talks With Japan on Territorial Agreement End in Moscow

LD1512133994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1227 GMT 15 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Geronin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 15 TASS—Bilateral Russian-Japanese consultations ended here today. They dealt with the implementation of the Russian-Japanese agreement on preventing incidents in the sea outside the territorial waters and in the air space over it, signed during the visit of President Yeltsin to Japan in October 1993.

During the consultations, that lasted three days, the two delegations discussed issues dealing with putting the agreement into effect and ensuring a higher level of security in connection with the sailing of Russian and Japanese ships outside the territorial waters and with the flying of the two countries' planes in the air space over the sea, Nikita Matkovskiy, spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry, told ITAR-TASS.

The Russian and Japanese delegations stated that during the period under review no incidents between ships or planes of the two countries had taken place. They reiterated the usefulness of the agreement on preventing incidents in the sea outside the territorial waters and in the air space over it.

The document forbids to imitate attacks, to throw away objects that may be dangerous for ships and to fire signal rockets, which may damage them. There are a number of similar bans in the agreement, which deal with planes. Moscow and Tokyo agreed to inform each other in advance about the date and place of taking some potentially dangerous steps in the sea.

$40 Million Loan for Financial Training Approved

LD1612042294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0210 GMT 16 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Loshchilin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, 16 Dec—On Thursday the council of administrators of the World Bank approved the granting of a loan amounting to $40 million for a project to train managers and other staff at financial institutions of the Russian Federation. The purpose of it is to assist in the speedy introduction of market methods of administration in this key sector of the national economy and to boost the qualifications of specialists working in it.

The managers of the World Bank have stressed that the project is called upon to lay the foundation for implementing a second, wider phase in the program aimed at the development of small business and municipal services in the regions of Russia. The overall expenditure on implementing the first stage in the complex of measures to train our financiers at home and abroad will amount to $51.4 million. The Russian share of the project is $11.4 million.

The same day the International Financial Corporation, which is a member of the World Bank group, announced it has decided to invest $7.5 million in the company "Rostelekom," which is engaged in getting modern communications' systems going in the Russian Federation. During the next three years, this American-Russian joint venture figures on bringing the number of subscribers on its cellular telephones in Moscow and St.Petersburg up from 8,200 to 34,000. Besides, "Rostelekom" is planning to set up similar networks in Volgograd, Krasnodar, Rostov-on-Don, Nizhnyy Novgorod, Perm, Ufa, Vladivostok, Blagoveshchensk, and Khabarovsk.

"This is our first investment in the communications' sector in Russia where 11 million people are still on the waiting list for a telephone," stated Everett Santos, director of administration of the infrastructure of the International Financial Corporation. "The expansion of and improvement in the quality of communications in the Russian Federation will act as an added incentive to the development of private enterprise, trade and the service spheres."

Black Sea Talks 'Positively Assessed' by Both Sides

LD1512142294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1321 GMT 15 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 15 TASS—The Russian and Ukrainian sides positively assessed the results of a regular round of talks on the settlement of the problems of the Black Sea Fleet that was held on December 13-December 14 in Kiev. They point out that

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there was a business-like atmosphere at the talks and attitudes of partners. Nikita Matkovskiy, spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry, told this to ITAR-TASS on Thursday [15 December].

The Russian state delegation was led by Ambassador at Large Yuriy Dubinin, the Ukrainian by First Deputy Premier Yevgeniy Marchuk.

Much attention was given to perfecting the text of the declaration on settling problems of the Black Sea Fleet and to related to problems of the basing of the Black Sea Fleet of Russia. As a result of the work of groups of experts a number of important provisions of the draft declaration has been agreed upon, Matkovskiy said.

The positions of the sides on the problem of basing were specified and worked out in detail during the two-day meeting in the Ukrainian capital. It was agreed to set up a working group to work out matters connected with mutual settlement in context of settling the problem of the Black Sea Fleet.

The sides reached understanding that in addition to working out matters of the final settlement, this working group will also consider the state of current financing of the Black Sea Fleet and refer its conclusions and proposals to the plenary meeting of the state delegations, Matkovskiy said. The discussion of the problem of interaction of Russia and Ukraine was continued in a constructive spirit to preserve stability in the Black Sea area. It was decided that all working groups will continue their activity.

A meeting of state delegations of Russia and Ukraine will be held in Moscow on Thursday, the spokesman said. It will be devoted to the discussion of problems connected with the drafting of the treaty of friendship, cooperation and partnership between the two countries. Matkovskiy also said that under an arrangement between Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Ukrainian Premier Vladimir Masol, the state delegations of Russia and Ukraine will have a meeting on December 20 to sum up the achievements and evaluate the results of the talks held over the recent weeks and to draft a report to the leadership of the two countries. The meeting is planned to be held in Kiev.

Military Cooperation Agreements Signed With Kazakhstan

MM1512134794 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Dec 94 p 3

[Report by Sergey Knyazkov: "It Is Not Obligatory To Go Away To Serve in the Army. Russia and Kazakhstan Strengthen Cooperation in the Military Sphere"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The latest round of talks between state delegations of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan was held 8-14 December. According to the information of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry Information and Press Directorate, three agreements were signed at head of government level: "On the Procedure for Maintaining and Using the Balkhash Industrial Center [Uzel Balkhash]"; "On Cooperation in the Process of Reducing Strategic Offensive Arms Located on the Territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan"; and finally, "On the Procedure for Ensuring Inspection Activity Under the 31 July 1991 Treaty on Reducing and Limiting Strategic Offensive Arms at Installations of the Strategic Nuclear Forces Temporarily Stationed on the Territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan."

In addition, a draft agreement on military service under contract by citizens of Russia in the Armed Forces of the Republic of Kazakhstan and on their status was initialed at government level, as were four draft agreements on the ranges located on the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The Russian Federation Defense Ministry Information and Press Directorate has emphasized that it is planned that all the aforesaid draft agreements will be signed by the heads of government of Russia and Kazakhstan this year.

Russia, U.S. Sign Accord on Nuclear Safety Cooperation

LD1512230794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2229 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Dec 15 (Interfax)—The Russian Space Agency and NASA will sign an agreement on the joint observation of the Earth, the director of the Russian agency Yuriy Koptev told Interfax Thursday. An appropriate understanding was reached in Moscow Thursday at the fourth session of a mixed commission for economic and technological cooperation.

According to Koptev, under the agreement American instruments for controlling the ozone layer and atmospheric components will be installed on Russian Meteor-3 satellites due to be launched in 1996 and 1999.

During the session Russia and the USA signed a contract on a joint program of biological experiments, Koptev announced. Two Russian Bion satellites with American equipment are to be launched. The project is worth $16 million.

On Friday the commission will discuss the conversion of the defence industry and the future of business cooperation. An agreement will be signed on the exchange of information on the safety of nuclear charges and radioactive materials.

The Russian Minister for Nuclear Energy Viktor Mikhaylov told Interfax that the document was finalized by the commission Thursday. It provides for the enhancement of safety in dismantling nuclear warheads. The sides also pledged to inform each other of all incidents at nuclear facilities.

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Political Issues

Yeltsin Addresses Chechens on 15 Dec Deadline

LD1512171794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1648 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 15 Dec—We transmit the text of Boris Yeltsin's address to the residents of the Chechen Republic, distributed by the president's press service:

"Today, 15 December 1994, the deadline stipulated in my edict "On some measures for strengthening law and order in the North Caucasus" regarding persons involved in the armed confrontation in the Chechen Republic to lay down their arms voluntarily expires.

"However, due to pressure brought by leaders of armed bands, no weapons have been surrendered. These weapons are being actively used against authorities of the federal state as they restore constitutional legality and law and order and secure the safety and constitutional rights and freedoms of the citizens of Russia. Blood is continuing to be spilled, and the concern of the people of Russia is mounting.

"The best way out of this situation is to cease fire and sit at the negotiation table without any preconditions. If Dzhokhar Dudayev personally consents to lead the Chechen delegation to talks, I will send an authorized and high-level delegation from Russia.

"The inhabitants of the Chechen Republic are still deprived of the opportunity to express their will freely, to form state bodies freely and in accordance with the laws of the Russian Federation, and to determine their republic's destiny. The most rational solution today is the designation of the time of elections in Chechnya.

"Striving to reduce the use of methods based on force to the minimum, as a result of which casualties among the civilian population are unfortunately possible, the deadline for the voluntary relinquishing of weapons and the cessation of resistance to the federal forces of law and order is extended by 48 hours, starting at 0000 hours on 16 December 1994 [2100 GMT on 15 December].

"I will regard a cease-fire by illegal armed formations as a demonstration of good will and a first step toward peace and the restoration of peace and legality in the Chechen Republic. It is important for heavy guns to be silent and later to be handed over within the time specified. I hope that all constructive responsible forces in the Chechen Republic will support a nonviolent way out of the crisis.

"In these hours critical to the fate of the Chechen people I hope that all Russian citizens understand the position stated.

"I believe that peace and calm in the Chechen Republic will soon triumph.

"[Signed] B.Yeltsin"

Press Service Issues Chechnya Crime Report

LD1612115094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1106 GMT 16 Dec 95

[By ITAR-TASS]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 16—The press service of the Russian president has circulated a report about the criminal situation in the Chechen Republic. The report prepared by the analytical service of the Russian Federal Interior Ministry says:

An analysis of the incoming information testifies to the violation of civil rights and freedoms all over the Chechen Republic. It also shows that crime has grown unprecedentedly. Chechnya's law enforcement bodies have absolved themselves from investigating crimes, including grave ones. Up to 600 premeditated murders are committed on the territory of the Chechen Republic every day.

The Groznyy branch of the North Caucasian railway has reported that in 1993 alone, 559 trains were burgled and goods worth 11.5 billion roubles were stolen from 4,000 railway cars and containers. In the first eight months of this year 1,156 railway cars and 527 containers were looted in 120 armed attacks, the total losses estimated at more than 11 billion roubles.

The Russian Interior Ministry has repeatedly sought contacts with Chechnya's law enforcement bodies with the aim of working out plans for joint actions. But all attempts ran against active counteraction on the part of armed groups. Arms had to be used more than 500 times to rebuff 57 armed assaults. Shootouts oftentimes evolved into armed clashes.

The Government of Russia had to terminate railway traffic on the territory of the Chechen Republic from October 1994.

Chechnya as a crime breeding ground did much to export criminal activities to all regions of the country. As of December 1, 1994, 1201 Chechens were declared wanted by the federal police for the crimes they committed. Sixty-four Chechens are on the wanted list in Moscow, fifteen in St. Petersburg, 61 in the republic of Daghestan, 83 in the Stavropol Territory and 38 in the Rostov region.

Chechens were involved in the acts of terror, hostage-taking and aircraft hijacking in October 1991, March 1992, December 1993, and in May, June, July and October 1194 in the city of Rostov-on-Don and the airports of the cities Mineralnyye Vody and Makhachkala.

Competent agencies of the Russian Federation in 1993 seized 9.4 billion roubles worth of counterfeit banknotes. Banknotes with a face value of 3.7 billion roubles were seized in cases involving Chechens directly or indirectly.

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Chechen criminal groups were actively involved in organising the misappropriation of monetary resources totalling some four trillion roubles. During the first six months of this year, 3,000 cases of misappropriation were exposed in the crediting and financial sphere and the loss of 900 billion roubles was prevented.

Forty-two per cent of the criminals involved in these cases were residents of Chechnya, more than 60 per cent of them are on the police wanted lists.

Chechen groups have virtually monopolised the narcotics sales markets in many regions of russia. More than seventy Chechens have been detained this year for crimes associated with large-scale narcobusiness operations.

The statement concludes that Chechnya has become a destabilising factor for the whole of Russia.

Dudayev Shows No Intent To Disarm

MM1512172894 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Dec 94 Weekend Edition p 2

[Article by RIA-NOVOSTI political observer Vladimir Simonov: "The Ultimatum Has Expired. What Next?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The rebel general Dudayev is forcing the Kremlin to take its strong-arm operation in Chechnya to its strong-arm conclusion. That could mean taking possession of the city of Groznyy, capital of this Russian republic.

That became clear after Dudayev showed no inclination to disarm his formations by 15 December, as Yeltsin's edict sought to compel him to do. Furthermore, Groznyy's representatives broke off talks with the Russian delegation in Vladikavkaz.

The Russian Government statement issued to coincide with the expiry of the ultimatum is couched entirely in harsh tones and leaves no room for doubt: The Kremlin is prepared for the most resolute actions, including actions to establish control over Groznyy by its troop units.

Dudayev has deliberately rejected the last chance of finding a bloodless way out of the situation.

That is strange. As an experienced military commander who once commanded a Russian strategic aviation division, the general cannot but be aware that given the attacking forces' threefold superiority in manpower, his chances of holding Groznyy are zero. It may be assumed that Dudayev has painted himself into a corner. Having whipped up a hysteria mingled with religious motives in the confrontation with Moscow, he is incapable of extricating himself today from this forcefield of enmity which he himself created.

Yet the Kremlin was trying to the best of its ability to alleviate this task for him. A special decree of the State Duma, the lower chamber of the Russian parliament, confirmed that all illegal formations and private individuals in the republic who surrendered their arms by 15 December would be granted an amnesty. Furthermore the columns of Russian troops brought into Chechnya separated the two warring internal forces—Dudayev's groupings and the detachments of the opposition Interim Council. As a result, neither side need fear a strike by the other.

Today, this is water under the bridge. As the Russian Government statement says, "the time for persuasion is rapidly expiring, and the hour of resolute actions is at hand."

Whereas only recently Viktor Kostikov, Yeltsin's press secretary, was claiming that the Russian military command had no plans for storming Groznyy, today Nikolay Yegorov, Russian deputy premier responsible for interethnic affairs, limited that promise by citing the date 15 December. That is to say, he made it clear that after that date, the storming [of Groznyy] is not only possible, but, because of Dudayev's fanatical intransigence, it is the only alternative that remains for Moscow.

There is every reason to believe that the rebel general is not averse to endowing his anticonstitutional, purely separatist actions with the aura of some kind of jihad, that is, a Muslim holy war against infidels.

However, unbiased observers agree that despite Dudayev's appeals to the Almighty, the Chechen authorities have for three years been flouting the canons of Islam in their daily social practice. In particular, preference has been given to the moral and behavioral standards that are cultivated within the so-called "teyps," that is, the Chechen clans. This in itself is contrary in many respects to the precepts of the Koran. Moreover Dudayev's entourage has sought to divide the believers into "clean" and "unclean." A small handful of "noble" types inhabiting Chechnya's mountain regions are assigned to the first category. The vast majority of Chechens living in the valleys fall into the second.

It is noteworthy that the summit meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization (ICO) which ended in Casablanca on Wednesday passed over the conflict in Chechnya as if it did not exist. Thus the leaders of 38 countries basically showed solidarity with the world community, which regards events in this integral part of Russia as its internal affair. Groznyy also will not like the resolution adopted at the meeting in Morocco against terrorism, that favorite weapon of Islamic fundamentalist extremists. The ICO document runs counter to Dudayev's appeals to blow up Russian nuclear power stations and chemical plants and turn Moscow into a firing range for Chechen terror.

This has not yet happened; separatism has not yet spread by metastasis to other regions of Russia, which would not wish to share the fate of the USSR, which split into fragments. Moscow is entitled to carry out a surgical operation in Chechnya.

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Three years of conservative treatment have proved futile. Attempts to push Dudayev into talks with the opposition and increasingly tough exhortations have not produced results. No civilized country in the world would tolerate such flouting of its constitutional system, such a threat to its territorial integrity, such disregard for its inhabitants' rights and freedoms.

It seems even Russia's patience has cracked. Only Dudayev and his entourage today bear the full responsibility for the blood and pain that this surgical intervention for the sake of the health of a unified, integral country will cost Chechnya and Russia.

Livshits on Conflict Issues

LD1512204294

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1725 GMT on 15 December, on the Details program, carries an interview with Aleksandr Livshits, aide to the president on economic questions, by host Nikolay Svanidze.

Svanidze asks him about the cost of the Chechen military operation. Livshits replies: "These things do not come cheaply. That is quite clear. But the volume of resources that has been mobilized is still relatively small for a great country. At most it amounts to one half of one percent of the budget expenditure. Not a large amount, but not a small amount either." Livshits also says that vast amounts of rubles were disappearing via Chechnya's nonexistent laws and nonexistent borders. Moreover, he said, it is difficult to put a price on democracy territorial integrity.

Livshits says that the military should be provided with everything it needs to carry out the tasks it had been given. He says: "I can feel only bitterness and indignation about the allegations that the army's top brass has done all of this deliberately." He continues: "To say that they have undertaken this in order to grab something is simply unconscionable. It is a sickness which has infected our society—the sickness of cynicism." Livshits rejects Svanidze's suggestion that the Chechen war, whatever its outcome, could lead to a crackdown throughout the country.

In conclusion, Svanidze says that a peaceful solution now seems possible. He says: "This depends on the degree of General Dudayev's common sense and also on which of the Kremlin groupings gains the upper hand on this issue. According to available information, there are two people who have constant access to the Chechen president, including the post-operation period: One is a civilian, first aide Viktor Ilyushin, and the other is a military man, head of the security service Aleksandr Korzhakov. It is said that in accordance with their professions and life experience they occupy somewhat different positions on Chechnya."

Panskov on Funding

LD1512181394 Moscow NTV in Russian 1600 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] The Chechen military operation, help to refugees, and dealing with aftermath of the conflict is a costly business. We have an opportunity to obtain this information direct from the horse's mouth. Vadim Glusker interviewed Russian Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov.

[Begin recording] [Glusker] Vladimir Georgiyevich, how is the military operation in Chechnya being funded?

[Panskov] The 1994 budget has allocations for the upkeep of relevant law enforcement bodies, including inter alia the Army, the Ministry of Interior, and the Ministry for Emergencies.

[Glusker] So what is the figure, specifically?

[Panskov] Approximately up to 100 trillion rubles. The humanitarian relief: Food and medical aid to the population is funded by state reserves and financed by this year's budget; there are such allocations in the 1994 budget. The resolution has been passed on restoring the national economy in the Chechen republic. The government's Reserve Fund will be used for this purpose. This fund is created annually specifically for relief of emergencies. The draft budget also envisages a Reserve Fund for unexpected expenses—and some money may have to be taken from it. Finally, capital investment will be redistributed.

[Glusker] Will the Chechen events cause a review of the 1995 budget?

[Panskov] No, it will not be changed in principle, because everything will be carried out within the resources that will be allocated beforehand. As I mentioned earlier, the whole limit of capital investment is 15.2 trillion rubles. The question is of the future, after the situation has been stabilized—we are not talking about any immediate investments. [end recording]

Kondratyev Denies Opposition To Chechnya Policy

LD1512204394 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1930 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Colonel-General Georgiy Kondratyev, Russian deputy defense minister, has denied Interfax reports alleging that he does not support the decision to put troops into Chechnya. In a conversation with a Slavyanka correspondent, Gen. Kondratyev pointed out that he had made no such statement, and no one had asked him any such question.

At present, Gen. Kondratyev is making a tour of inspection of units of the Russian peacekeeping forces stationed in Abkhazia. On 15 December, he visited peacekeeping forces in the Kodori Gorge.

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Yeltsin Signs Electoral Rights Law

MM1312155094 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Dec 94 First Edition p 4-5

["Russian Federation Federal Law on Basic Guarantees of Russian Federation Citizens' Electoral Rights. Adopted by the State Duma 26 October 1994; Approved by the Federation Council 16 November 1994," No. 56-FZ, signed by President of the Russian Federation B. Yeltsin, Moscow, the Kremlin, 6 December 1994]

[FBIS Translated Text] Free democratic elections to the organs of state power and elected local self-government organs of the Russian Federation are the supreme direct expression of power belonging to the people. The state guarantees the citizens' free expression of will at elections through the protection of the democratic principles and norms of electoral law.

The present Federal Law defines the basic guarantees of Russian Federation citizens' exercise of their constitutional right to elect and be elected to organs of state power and local self-government organs.

Chapter I. General Provisions

Article 1. Limits of the operation of the present Federal Law

The present Federal Law establishes the basic guarantees of the electoral rights of Russian Federation citizens in elections of the president of the Russian Federation and deputies of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma and to other federal state organs stipulated by the Russian Federation Constitution that are directly elected by Russian Federation citizens in accordance with federal laws; in elections to organs of state power of the Russian Federation components; and in elections to local self-government organs held in accordance with federal laws or laws or other normative legal acts of the legislative (representative) organs of state power of the Russian Federation components.

In accordance with the Russian Federation Constitution laws and other normative legal acts of the legislative (representative) organs of state power of the Russian Federation components on elections to organs of state power of the Russian Federation components and on elections to local self-government organs may not be in conflict with the present Federal Law.

Additional guarantees of citizens' electoral rights may be established by laws and other normative legal acts of the legislative (representative) organs of state power of the Russian Federation components.

The electoral rights of Russian Federation citizens and their guarantees established by the present Federal Law and other federal laws and by laws and other normative legal acts of the legislative (representative) organs of state power of the Russian Federation components may not be changed other than by the adoption of a federal law.

Article 2. Main terms used in the present Federal Law

The following terms are used in the present Federal Law:

Elections in the Russian Federation—elections of the president of the Russian Federation and deputies of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma and to other federal state organs stipulated by the Russian Federation Constitution that are directly elected by Russian Federation citizens in accordance with federal laws, elections to organs of state power of the Russian Federation components, and elections to elected local self-government organs; the actions of Russian Federation citizens, electoral associations, electoral commissions, and organs of state power relating to the compilation of electoral registers, the nomination and registration of candidates, election campaigning, and voting and the summing up of its results and other electoral actions in accordance with federal laws and with laws and other normative legal acts of the legislative (representative) organs of state power of the Russian Federation components;

Citizens' electoral rights—the constitutional right of Russian Federation citizens to elect and be elected to organs of state power and to elected local self-government organs;

Guarantees of citizens' electoral rights—legal, organizational, informational, and other means of ensuring the exercise of Russian Federation citizens' electoral rights;

The active electoral right of citizens—the right of Russian Federation citizens to elect to organs of state power and to elected local self-government organs;

The passive electoral right of citizens—the right of Russian Federation citizens to be elected to organs of state power and elected local self-government organs;

Voter—a citizen of the Russian Federation possessing the active electoral right;

Electoral commissions—commissions organizing the conduct of elections of the president of the Russian Federation and deputies of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma and to other federal state organs stipulated by the Russian Federation Constitution that are directly elected by Russian Federation citizens in accordance with federal laws, and elections to organs of state power of the Russian Federation components and to elected local self-government organs;

Candidate—a candidate for the office of president of the Russian Federation, candidate deputy of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma, candidate deputy of an organ of state power of a Russian Federation component, or candidate for the office of head of the executive organ of state power (president) of a Russian Federation component or to an elected local self-government organ elected by Russian Federation citizens;

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Electoral association—a public association whose charter provides for participation in elections by means of the nomination of candidates which is set up and registered according to the procedure established by federal laws and by laws and other normative legal acts of the legislative (representative) organs of state power of Russian Federation components not later than six months prior to the announcement of election day;

Electoral bloc—a voluntary association of two or more public associations registered according to the procedure established by federal laws and by laws and other normative legal acts of the legislative (representative) organs of state power of Russian Federation components for joint participation in elections. An electoral bloc possesses the rights of an electoral association;

List of candidates—a unified list of candidates nominated by an electoral association (electoral bloc) for elections to a legislative (representative) organ of state power or elected local self-government organ;

Election campaigning—activity by Russian Federation citizens and public associations in the preparation and dissemination of information with the aim of encouraging voters to participate in voting for or against particular candidates (lists of candidates).

Article 3. Principles of participation by a Russian Federation citizen in elections

A Russian Federation citizen participates in elections on the basis of universal equal and direct suffrage in a secret ballot.

The participation of a Russian Federation citizen in elections is voluntary. No one is entitled to exert influence on a Russian Federation citizen with the aim of forcing him to participate or not participate in elections, or to exert influence on his free expression of will.

A citizen of the Russian Federation who is resident outside its bounds possesses the full plenitude of electoral rights. Diplomatic and consular institutions of the Russian Federation are obliged to offer assistance to a Russian Federation citizen to exercise the electoral rights established by the present Federal Law.

Article 4. Universal suffrage

A Russian Federation citizen who has attained the age of 18 is entitled to elect—and, on attaining the age stipulated by the Russian Federation Constitution, the present Federal Law and other federal laws, and laws and other normative legal acts of the legislative (representative) organs of state power of the Russian Federation components, to be elected—to organs of state power and elected local self-government organs.

A Russian Federation citizen may elect and be elected regardless of sex, race, nationality, language, origin, property or official status, place of residence, attitude to religion, convictions, or membership of public associations.

Citizens deemed by the courts to be incapable and citizens being detained at places of imprisonment under a court sentence are not entitled to elect or be elected.

Laws and other normative legal acts of the legislative (representative) organs of state power of the Russian Federation components may set additional conditions for a Russian Federation citizen's acquisition of the passive electoral right in connection with his attainment of a certain age or the duration of his residence in a specified territory of the Russian Federation (corresponding to the level of elections being held). The minimum age of candidates stipulated may not exceed 21 years for elections to legislative (representative) organs of state power of the Russian Federation components, 30 years for elections of the head of the executive organ of state power (president) of a Russian Federation component, and 21 years for elections of the head of local self-government; the duration of mandatory residence in the territory in question may not exceed one year.

Restrictions connected with the status of a deputy, including the impossibility of being in state service or engaging in other paid activity, are established by the Russian Federation Constitution, federal laws, and laws and other normative legal acts of legislative (representative) organs of state power of the Russian Federation components.

Article 5. Equal suffrage

Voters participate in elections in the Russian Federation on an equal footing.

Article 6. Direct suffrage

The voter votes in elections in the Russian Federation for or against candidates (a list of candidates) directly.

Article 7. Secret ballot

Voting in elections in the Russian Federation is secret, that is, excluding the possibility of any form of monitoring of the voter's expression of will.

Chapter II. Guarantees of Citizens' Electoral Rights in the Compilation of Electoral Registers and the Formation of Electoral Districts and Electoral Precincts

Article 8. Compilation of electoral registers

Electoral registers include all Russian Federation citizens possessing active electoral rights on voting day.

The electoral register is compiled by the precinct electoral commission separately for each electoral precinct on the basis of information submitted according to the established form by the head of the local administration. Specification of the lists of registered voters is carried out by the head of the local administration as of 1 January and 1 July of each year. The said information is sent to the corresponding electoral commissions immediately after election day is set.

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The basis for the inclusion of a Russian Federation citizen on the electoral register in a specific electoral precinct is his residence on the territory of that electoral precinct as defined in accordance with the federal law establishing the right of Russian Federation citizens to freedom of movement and choice of place of sojourn and residence on the territory of the Russian Federation.

A Russian Federation citizen may be included on the electoral register in only one electoral precinct.

The basis and procedure for compiling electoral registers are established in the relevant federal laws and in laws and other normative legal acts of the legislative (representative) organs of state power of the Russian Federation components.

The electoral register is presented for universal inspection not later than 30 days before election day.

Every Russian Federation citizen possessing electoral rights is entitled to submit a complaint to the precinct electoral commission on his noninclusion on the electoral register or any error or inaccuracy in the electoral register. The precinct electoral commission is obliged within 24 hours to investigate the complaint and either rectify the error or give the complainant a written reply setting forth the reasons for rejection of the complaint. The decision of the precinct electoral commission may be the subject of an appeal to the higher electoral commission (depending on the level of the elections being held) or to the courts, who are obliged to examine the appeal within three days, or, on election day, immediately.

The introduction of amendments to electoral registers after the counting of votes has begun is prohibited.

Article 9. Formation of electoral districts

For the holding of elections electoral districts are formed on the basis of information supplied by the executive organs of state power and local self-government organs. The boundaries of electoral districts and the number of voters in each electoral district are defined by the relevant electoral commission and approved by the relevant representative organ at least 60 days before election day.

For elections in the Russian Federation, the following requirements are to be observed when electoral districts are formed:

Approximate equality of electoral districts in terms of number of voters with a permissible variation from the average voter representation norm of not more than 10 percent—not more than 15 percent in isolated or remote localities; for the formation of electoral districts on territories with a high concentration of small indigenous peoples the variation from the average representation norm may exceed the stated limits in accordance with the laws and other normative legal acts of the legislative (representative) organs of state power of the Russian Federation components, but by not more than 30 percent. This requirement does not apply to elections to federal state organs if federal laws stipulate the mandatory formation of at least one electoral district on the territory of each component of the Russian Federation;

The electoral district forms a single territory: The creation of an electoral district from non-adjoining territories is not allowed except in instances prescribed by federal laws or the laws and other normative legal acts of the legislative (representative) organs of state power of the Russian Federation components.

Administrative-territorial divisions are taken into account in the observance of the aforementioned requirements for the formation of electoral districts.

Article 10. Formation of electoral precincts

Electoral precincts are formed for the holding of elections and the counting of votes.

Electoral precincts are formed at least 45 days before election day by the head of the local administration in coordination with the corresponding electoral commissions in the light of local and other conditions to ensure the maximum convenience for voters based on a maximum of 3,000 voters per precinct. The boundaries of electoral precincts may not cross the boundaries of electoral districts.

Electoral precincts may be formed in hospitals, sanatoriums, rest homes, and other places where voters are temporarily resident, in isolated or remote regions, on ships which are at sea on election day, and at polar stations within the same time limit or, in exceptional circumstances, not later than five days before election day; such electoral precincts belong to the electoral district of the area where they are situated or the registered home port of the ship in question. Servicemen vote at ordinary electoral precincts. Electoral precincts may be formed in military units in instances prescribed by federal laws or by the laws and other normative legal acts of the legislative (representative) organs of state power of the Russian Federation components; all members of the electoral commission, observers, candidates, and their agents must be guaranteed access to the premises where voting takes place.

The lists of electoral precincts indicating their boundaries and the addresses of the precinct electoral commissions must be published by the corresponding electoral commission in the local press at least 40 days before election day.

Chapter III. The Safeguarding of Citizens' Electoral Rights by Electoral Commissions

Article 11. Status of electoral commissions

Electoral commissions in the Russian Federation ensure the realization and protection of citizens' electoral rights.

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The preparation and holding of elections in the Russian Federation are carried out by:

The Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission;

The electoral commissions of the components of the Russian Federation;

District electoral commissions;

Territorial (rayon, city, and other) electoral commissions. Several territorial electoral commissions are set up within the confines of a single administrative-territorial unit with a large number of voters;

Precinct electoral commissions.

The powers and operating procedure of the Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission and other electoral commissions relating to elections to federal organs of state power are laid down in federal laws.

The powers and operating procedure of electoral commissions relating to elections to organs of state power of the Russian Federation components and to elected local self-government organs are laid down in the laws and other normative legal acts of the legislative (representative) organs of state power of the Russian Federation components.

When preparing and holding elections, electoral commissions within the limits of their competence are not dependent on state organs and local self-government organs.

Acts of electoral commissions adopted within the limits of their competence laid down in federal laws and in laws and other normative legal acts of the legislative (representative) organs of state power of the Russian Federation components are binding on executive organs of state power, local self-government organs, public associations, enterprises, establishments, organizations, and officials, as well as lower (in conformity with the level of the elections being held) electoral commissions.

The Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission and electoral commissions of the Russian Federation components are legal persons. Other electoral commissions may be deemed legal persons in accordance with the laws and other normative legal acts of legislative (representative) organs of state power of the Russian Federation components.

State organs, local self-government organs, public associations, enterprises, establishments, organizations, mass media, and also their officials are obliged to assist electoral commissions in exercising their powers, particularly to provide the necessary premises, transport, means of communication, technical equipment, information, and materials, to provide answers to electoral commissions' questions within the time laid down in federal laws and in laws and other normative legal acts of legislative (representative) organs of state power of the Russian Federation components, and also to provide an opportunity for electoral commissions' press information to be carried according to the procedure laid down in federal laws and in laws and other normative legal acts of legislative (representative) organs of state power of the Russian Federation components.

Article 12. Status of and procedure for forming the Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission

The Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission operates on a permanent basis.

The Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission directs the activities of electoral commissions relating to elections of the president of the Russian Federation and of deputies of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma and to other federal state organs provided for in the Russian Federation Constitution that are directly elected by citizens of the Russian Federation in accordance with federal laws, as well as relating to the holding of Russian Federation referenda.

The powers of the Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission last four years.

The Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission consists of 15 members. Five members of the Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission are appointed by the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma from among candidacies proposed by deputies' associations in the State Duma. Five members of the Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission are appointed by the Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council from among candidacies proposed by legislative (representative) and executive organs of state power of the Russian Federation components. Five members of the Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission are appointed by the president of the Russian Federation. The commission members must have had higher juridical education or a higher degree in the sphere of law. Members of the Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission elect by secret ballot from among their number the chairman, the deputy chairman, and the secretary. Members of the Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission may be released from their posts before the expiry of their powers by decision of the organ which appointed them in cases of:

A written application by a member of the Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission to lay down his powers;

Loss of citizenship of the Russian Federation by a member of the Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission;

The legal validation of a court's conviction of a member of the Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission;

A court ruling which has come into legal force deeming a member of the Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission to be incapable, of limited capability, or dead;

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The death of a member of the Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission.

The Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission jointly with the electoral commissions of the Russian Federation components:

Monitors compliance with citizens' electoral rights;

Organizes the statewide system of voter registration;

Formulates the standards of the technological equipment necessary for the work of electoral commissions and monitors compliance with them;

Implements measures to organize a uniform system for summing up voting results and establishing the results of elections in the Russian Federation;

Distributes funds allocated from the federal budget for funding the preparation and holding of elections and monitors their targeted use;

Gives methodical and organizational-technical assistance to electoral commissions.

The Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission has the right to issue instructions, binding on all electoral commissions in the Russian Federation, relating to questions of the application of this Federal Law.

Article 13. Formation of electoral commissions

The procedure for forming electoral commissions relating to elections to federal organs of state power, as well as elections to organs of state power of the Russian Federation components, is determined in accordance with federal laws and with laws and other normative legal acts of legislative (representative) organs of state power of the Russian Federation components.

The electoral commissions of the Russian Federation components are formed by the legislative (representative) and executive organs of state power of the Russian Federation components on the basis of proposals by public associations, elected local self-government organs, and meetings of voters at their place of work, service, study, and residence. At the same time not less than half the electoral commission's members are appointed by the legislative (representative) organ of state power of a Russian Federation component.

Electoral commissions relating to elections to elected local self-government organs are formed on the basis of proposals by public associations and meetings of voters at their place of work, service, study, and residence in accordance with laws and other normative legal acts of legislative (representative) organs of state power of the Russian Federation components and statutes (provisions) on local self-government.

Candidates, their agents, spouses and close relatives of candidates, or persons directly subordinate to them may not be members of electoral commissions.

Following a candidate's registration, the electoral association which nominated the candidate (list of candidates) or the candidate himself is entitled to appoint to the electoral commission which registered the candidate and to lower electoral commissions one member of each with nonvoting status. Nonvoting members of an electoral commission have the right of access to all materials and documents of the relevant electoral commission, must be notified of all sessions of the electoral commission, and are entitled to address sessions.

The powers of nonvoting members of an electoral commission, in cases where candidates or the electoral associations which nominated them were elected, continue until the registration of candidates in the next elections to the same organ or to the same post has ended; the powers of the remaining nonvoting members of the electoral commission cease 30 days after the publication of the full election results.

Article 14. Openness in the activities of electoral commissions

Electoral commissions operate publicly and openly.

Candidates and their agents and representatives of electoral associations and the mass media have the right to attend sessions of the appropriate electoral commission.

Decisions of electoral commissions are published in the press and conveyed to other mass media within the times laid down in the appropriate federal laws and the laws and other normative legal acts of legislative (representative) organs of state power of the Russian Federation components.

On voting day, from the moment the precinct electoral commission starts work until its members sign the returns on the voting results, observers sent by public and electoral associations and by candidates and also foreign (international) observers have the right to be present in polling places. Foreign (international) observers perform their activity in accordance with federal laws.

Article 15. Organization of the activities of electoral commissions

Electoral commissions operate on the basis of collegiality.

A session of an electoral commission is valid if a majority of the established number of members of the electoral commission with voting rights participated in it.

Electoral commissions' decisions on the registration of candidates (lists of candidates), on the cancellation of the registration of candidates, on the voting results or election results, and on deeming elections as not having taken place or as invalid are adopted at sessions of electoral commissions by a majority of votes of the

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established number of members of the electoral commission with voting rights. Decisions of electoral commissions relating to other questions are adopted by a simple majority of votes of the number of electoral commission members present with voting rights.

An electoral commission's decisions are signed by the chairman and secretary of the electoral commission.

An electoral commission's members who disagree with a decision adopted by the commission have the right to express a dissenting opinion in writing, which must be brought by the commission chairman to the notice of the higher electoral commission within not more than three days.

An electoral commission's decision which is in conflict with federal laws or with laws and other normative legal acts of legislative (representative) organs of state power of the Russian Federation components or which was adopted by the electoral commission in excess of its established powers is subject to repeal by a higher electoral commission (in conformity with the level of the elections held) or by a court.

Article 16. Appeal against violations of citizens' electoral rights

In accordance with the Russian Federation Constitution, decisions and actions (or inaction) by organs of state power, local self-government organs, public associations, and officials which violate citizens' electoral rights may be appealed against in court. A court ruling on the substance of a complaint or statement is final.

Decisions and actions (or inaction) by electoral commissions and their officials which violate citizens' electoral rights may be appealed against to a higher electoral commission (in conformity with the level of the elections held) or to a court. A preliminary appeal to higher electoral commissions is not an obligatory condition for appealing to a court. Rulings on complaints received in the course of elections are adopted within five days, and on election day—immediately. If the facts contained in complaints require additional verification, rulings on them are adopted within not more than 10 days. At the same time a higher electoral commission has the right to adopt an independent ruling on the substance of a complaint.

Chapter IV. Nomination and Registration of Candidates

Article 17. The right to nominate candidates

The right to nominate candidates (lists of candidates), including for place of work, service, training, or residence, is vested in electoral associations and directly in voters.

Article 18. Nomination of candidates by electoral associations

Electoral associations are entitled to nominate candidates (lists of candidates).

Decisions on the nomination of candidates (lists of candidates) from electoral associations are adopted in accordance with the level of the election being held at congresses (conferences) of federation-wide or regional electoral associations or at meetings of local sections of these electoral associations.

Electoral blocs are subject to registration with the appropriate electoral commission following their presentation of a joint list of candidates to the commission.

The nomination of candidates (lists of candidates) from an electoral bloc is done at a congress (conference) of representatives of the public associations belonging to the electoral bloc. The public associations belonging to an electoral bloc cannot join other electoral blocs or act as independent electoral associations at the same elections.

Decisions on the nomination of candidates (list of candidates) from electoral associations and electoral blocs are adopted by secret ballot.

Voters' signatures in support of candidates (lists of candidates) nominated from electoral associations and electoral blocs are collected by the procedure and in the quantity prescribed by federal laws and by laws and other normative legal acts of legislative (representative) organs of state power of the Russian Federation components. The maximum number of signatures necessary for the registration of candidates (lists of candidates) cannot exceed 2 percent of the number of voters established when compiling the electoral register in accordance with the present Federal Law.

Article 19. Nomination of candidates directly by voters

The nomination of candidates directly by voters is done by collecting signatures to the candidate's nomination notice. Signatures are collected at the place of work (including in labor collectives), service, training, or residence. The management and labor collectives of enterprises in all forms of ownership, establishments, and organizations are obliged to provide assistance in creating equal conditions for the nomination of candidates. The number of signatures and the procedure for their collection are prescribed by federal laws and by the laws and other normative legal acts of the legislative (representative) organs of the Russian Federation components. The maximum number of signatures necessary for the registration of candidates cannot exceed 2 percent of the number of voters in the corresponding electoral district.

Signatures can be collected only among voters with an active electoral right in the electoral district where the nomination of candidates is taking place. The nomination period for candidates must total at least 45 days for elections for the president of the Russian Federation, for deputies of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma, and for other federal state bodies for which elections are prescribed by the Constitution of the Russian Federation and at least 30 days for elections to

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organs of state power of Russian Federation components and elected local self-government organs.

The initiative for collecting signatures to a candidate's nomination notice can come from any voter (voters). He (they) informs the electoral commission with which the given candidate will be registered.

Article 20. Registration of candidates (lists of candidates)

Candidates (lists of candidates) are registered by the appropriate electoral commission on the submission of the electoral associations or voters who have nominated the candidates, given the existence of statements by the candidates of their agreement to run for the given electoral district. The documents which are presented indicate the candidate's affiliation to any electoral association. If a candidate is not affiliated to any electoral association, he participates in the election as an independent candidate. A candidate's affiliation to any electoral association or his independent status is recorded on the voting slip. At least the prescribed number of voters' signatures in support of the candidate (list of candidates) must be presented to the appropriate electoral commission at the same time.

If no candidate is registered in an electoral district within the prescribed time period or the number of registered candidates proves to be less than or equal to the prescribed number of seats, the election in the given electoral district is deferred by decision of the corresponding electoral commission to allow the nomination of additional candidates and the implementation of subsequent electoral actions.

In the event of a refusal to register a candidate (list of candidates) the corresponding electoral commission is obliged to immediately issue to the candidate or his agent or the authorized representative of the electoral association a copy of the commission decision spelling out the reasons for the refusal. Only nonfulfillment of the requirements of federal laws or of the laws and other normative legal acts of the legislative (representative) organs of state power of the Russian Federation components relating to elections in the Russian Federation can be a reason for refusal.

A candidate is entitled to withdraw his candidacy at any time prior to election day.

Chapter V. Status of Candidates

Article 21. Equality of candidates

All candidates have equal rights and equal obligations.

Article 22. Guarantees of candidates' activity

After registration, candidates who are in state or municipal service and also candidates who work in the mass media are released from their duties and are not entitled to make use of the advantages of their professional position for the duration of their participation in the elections.

After registration, candidates are released from work, military service, military training camps, and training for the duration of their participation in the elections. During this time the corresponding electoral commission pays them monetary compensation from the funds allocated for the preparation and holding of the elections. The types, amount, and procedure for the payment of compensation is prescribed by federal laws and by the laws and other legal normative enactments of the legislative (representative) organs of state power of the components of the Russian Federation.

During the time that elections are being conducted candidates cannot be dismissed or reassigned to other work on the initiative of the management (employer).

The time spent by a candidate in participating in elections counts toward his overall length of service in the speciality in which he was working prior to his registration as a candidate.

After registration, a candidate cannot (according to the level of election) be called to criminal account, arrested, or subjected to administrative penalities imposable by judicial procedure without the consent of a prosecutor. If consent is given, the prosecutor is obliged to inform the electoral commission which registered the candidate.

Chapter VI. Election Campaigning

Article 23. The right to conduct election campaigning

The state guarantees citizens of the Russian Federation and public associations unrestricted [svobodnyy] election campaigning in accordance with federal laws.

Citizens of the Russian Federation and public associations are entitled to campaign for or against any candidate or electoral association in forms permitted by the law and by legal methods.

Candidates and electoral associations are guaranteed equal conditions of access to the mass media.

Election campaigning can be conducted through the mass media and the holding of pre-election events, including assemblies and meetings with voters, public pre-election debates and discussions, rallies, demonstrations, marches, and the publication and distribution of printed campaigning material. A candidate or electoral association is entitled to independently choose the form and character of election campaigning through the mass media. Members of electoral commissions, state organs, local self-government organs, and officials of state organs and local self-government organs cannot take part in election campaigning.

Officials of state organs and local self-government organs who are candidates can take part in election campaigning on an equal footing with other candidates.

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Journalists, mass media officials, and officials and creative personnel of state television and radio companies are prohibited from participating in media coverage of the election campaign if the said persons are candidates or candidates' agents.

Article 24. Conditions for election campaigning through the mass media

A candidate or electoral association is entitled to be granted free airtime on an equal basis on the channels of state and municipal television and radio companies engaged in television and radio broadcasting on the territory of the corresponding electoral district.

A candidate or electoral association is entitled, on the basis of a contract concluded with a television and radio company, to obtain for payment airtime in excess of the airtime granted free of charge. The terms of payment for the candidates and electoral associations must be equal.

Instructions on the procedure for granting airtime to candidates and electoral associations on the channels of state television and radio broadcasting companies are issued by the Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission with the participation of state organs ensuring the observance of constitutional rights and freedoms in the sphere of mass information.

Mass media whose founders (cofounders) are state or municipal bodies, organizations, or institutions, or which are funded fully or partly from resources allocated from the corresponding budgets (the federal budget, the budget of a Russian Federation component, or a local budget) or from the resources of local self-government organs are obliged to ensure equal opportunities for candidates and electoral associations holding different political views to expound their election programs.

All printed campaigning material must contain information on the organizations and persons responsible for their publication. The dissemination of anonymous campaigning material is prohibited.

Officials of state organs and local self-government organs are obliged to provide premises located on state or municipal property for the use of electoral commissions and for candidates and their agents to meet with voters. Electoral commissions are obliged to ensure equal opportunities for all candidates in election campaigning.

Article 25. The inadmissibility of abuses of the right to carry out election campaigning

Abuse of the freedom of the media, agitation inciting social, racial, national, or religious hatred or enmity, calls for the seizure of power, for the constitutional system to be changed by force, or for the violation of the state's integrity, and war propaganda are not permitted during election campaigning.

In the event of the aforementioned violations being committed, electoral commissions have the right to appeal to the courts for the decision registering a candidate (list of candidates) to be annulled. Such an appeal is to be examined by the courts within a period of three days.

Electoral commissions monitor compliance with the established procedure for the conduct of election campaigns.

Article 26. The time frame for conducting election campaigns

Election campaigning begins from the day that candidates are registered and ends one day before election day.

Printed campaigning material displayed outside the buildings and premises of electoral commissions prior to this may remain in place.

During the three days before election day, including voting day, publication of the results of public opinion polls, forecasts of election results, and other research connected with the elections is not permitted.

Chapter VII. The Funding of Elections

Article 27. Financial backing of the preparation and holding of elections

Expenditure by electoral commissions on preparing and holding elections in the Russian Federation at the corresponding level are covered from resources allocated from the corresponding budget (the federal budget, the budget of a Russian Federation component, the local budget).

Expenditure by the Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission connected with the exercise of its powers are stipulated as a separate item in the federal budget. The Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission submits an account of its expenditure to the chambers of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly.

Article 28. Election funds and the procedure for forming them

Candidates set up their own election funds to finance the election campaign. For elections to organs of state power and to elected local self-government organs electoral associations can also set up election funds.

Election funds may be formed on the basis of the following resources:

Resources allocated for election campaigning purposes to electoral associations or candidates in equal measures by the appropriate electoral commission;

The electoral association's or candidate's own resources, except in cases where such resources come from foreign sources;

Resources allocated to a candidate by the electoral association nominating him;

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Voluntary contributions from individuals and corporations.

Only monies transferred to election funds may be used for election campaign purposes.

Voluntary contributions from foreign states, organizations, or citizens, from Russian corporations with foreign participation where the share of foreign capital exceeds 30 percent, from international organizations, and from state organizations and institutions, organs of local self-government, and religious associations are not permitted.

The procedure for the taxation of voluntary contributions to election funds is established by federal law.

The maximum amounts which a candidate or electoral association can transfer to election funds from private resources, and also from resources allocated to the candidate by the electoral association nominating him and the voluntary contributions of individuals and corporations, are established by federal laws and by the laws and other normative legal acts of legislative (representative) organs of state power of the Russian Federation components.

The appropriate electoral commission is obliged to publish periodically until election day information on the amount and sources of the creation of electoral funds on the basis of information provided by the candidate or electoral association. The candidate or electoral association is obliged to submit to the appropriate electoral commission not later than 30 days after the end of the elections an account of the size and all the sources of the creation of his election funds, and also on all his expenditure, and the electoral commission is obliged to publish this account not later than 45 days after its submission to the electoral commission.

Article 29. The procedure for the expenditure of election fund resources

All monies constituting an election fund are transferred to a special account in a bank or credit institution opened by the candidate or electoral association with the permission of the appropriate electoral commission after the registration of the candidate (list of candidates). The procedure for opening and holding such accounts and the recording and accounting of the resources of election funds is established by the Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission in coordination with the Central Bank of the Russian Federation.

The right to dispose of the resources of electoral funds belongs to the candidates or electoral associations setting them up.

Monies remaining in the accounts of candidates and electoral associations after the completion of elections are transferred in proportion to the resources deposited to the current accounts of the organizations and persons who made the transfers and contributions.

Chapter VIII. Voting Procedure, Counting of Votes, Establishment of Election Results, and Publication of Them

Article 30. Voting Procedure

Voting at elections in the Russian Federation takes place at the weekend. Exceptions as regards the day set for voting can be made by federal laws or by laws and other normative legal acts of legislative (representative) organs of state power of the Russian Federation components.

Precinct electoral commissions are obliged to notify voters when and where they have to vote at least 20 days in advance via the mass media.

A voter who is going to be absent fron his place of residence for 15 days up to and including election day for whatever reason and will be unable to go to the polling place where he is on the electoral register must be given the opportunity to vote early, by completing a ballot paper at the premises of the district or precinct electoral commission. The electoral commission is obliged to keep the vote secret, prevent any misrepresentation of the voter's will, and ensure that the ballot paper is kept safe and that the vote is counted when the result is being determined.

A voter votes by placing a mark on the voting paper in the square (squares) relating to the chosen candidate (candidates) or list of candidates, or against the "opposed to all candidates (lists of candidates)" option.

Each voter votes in person; voting for other people is not allowed. Ballot papers are issued to voters on the electoral register on presentation of an identity card or other means of identification. The precinct electoral commission is obliged to ensure that all voters are able to vote, including people who because of their state of health or for other valid reasons are unable to go to the polling station. With that in mind the precinct electoral commission must have the requisite number of portable ballot boxes, as decided by the district electoral commission. The application to be granted the opportunity to vote outside the polling station must be confirmed by the voter in writing when the members of the precinct electoral commission arrive. The members of the precinct electoral commission following up applications sign for and receive the number of ballot papers corresponding to the number of applications. The number of voters' applications and used and returned papers is noted in a separate document. Data on people who have voted outside the polling station are added to the list. Observers are entitle to be present when voting occurs outside the polling station. The organization of voting outside the polling stations must rule out the possibility of any violation of citizens' voting rights, as well as any misreprensentaiton of the voter's will.

Ballot papers are completed by voters in specially equipped booths or rooms and no other person is permitted to be present. A voter who is unable to complete a paper independently is entitled to get another person to

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do it as long as that person is not a member of the precinct electoral commission or an observer. The voting paper must bear the stamp of the precinct electoral commission or the signature of at least two of its members. The voter confirms receipt of a ballot paper by signing the electoral register.

Completed ballot papers are dropped by voters into ballot boxes, which must be in full view of members of the precinct electoral commission and of observers.

A member of the precinct electoral commission is immediately barred from participating in this work and an observer is immediately ejected from the polling station if they violate the secrecy of the vote or try to influence the voter. This is decided by the precinct electoral commission.

Article 31. Counting of Votes by Precinct Electoral Commissions

The votes are counted by members of the precinct electoral commission with voting rights on the basis of voters' ballot papers. When counting the votes the precinct electoral commission will declare invalid ballot papers from which it is impossible to ascertain the will of the voter and ballot papers that are not of the required form. The members of the precinct electoral commission count and enter in the election returns the folowing data:

Number of registered voters and number of voters added to the register;

Number of ballot papers received by the precinct electoral commission;

Number of ballot papers issued to voters at the polling place on election day;

Number of canceled ballot papers;

Number of ballot papers submitted by people who voted early;

Number of ballot papers submitted by people who voted at home;

Number of ballot papers in the ballot boxes;

Number of valid ballot papers;

Number of ballot papers declared invalid;

Number of votes cast for each of the options in all of the ballot papers, including the "opposed to all candidates (lists of candidates)" option.

When it is decided to declare a ballot paper invalid the precinct electoral commission indicates on the reverse the reasons for invalidating it. This is confirmed by the signatures of at least three members of the precinct electoral commission. In determining the number of voters who have participated in the election, ballot papers of the wrong form are excluded from the count.

In order to rule out the possibility of falsification of the results of voting, the count begins immediately after the voting ends and all the members of the precinct electoral commission and also the observers representing candidates and electoral associations and foreign (international) observers must be informed of this.

After the count the precinct electoral commission completes two copies of the election returns. When signing the election returns members of the precinct electoral commission who do not agree with its content are entitled to append a dissenting view to the returns, and this will be properly recorded in the returns.

At the request of any member of the precinct electoral commission or observer, the precinct electoral commission is obliged to provide him or her with a certified copy of the election returns.

One copy of the precinct electoral commission's returns, after it has been signed by all the voting members of the precinct electoral commission who are present, is immediately sent to the superior electoral commission.

Article 32. Establishing the Results of the Elections

On the basis of authentic precinct, territorial (rayon, city, and other) electoral commissions' returns and the consolidation of the data contained in them, the district electoral commission, in accordance with federal laws and with the laws and other normative legal acts of legislative (representative) organs of state power in the Russian Federation components, establishes the election results for the electoral district. The voting members of the district electoral commission establish the election results in person. Returns are compiled on the results of the elections in the electoral district and are signed by all of the voting members of the district electoral commission who are present.

The district electoral commission declares the election invalid if violations perpetrated during the voting or during the establishment of the results of the vote mean that the results of the vote cannot be established with certainty.

At the request of any member of the district electoral commission or observer the district electoral commission grants them the opportunity to see the election returns and take a copy of them on the district electoral commission's premises. The copy of the returns is certified by the district electoral commission.

The results of the voting and the outcome of the elections are established in electoral commissions at all levels in the presence of observers representing candidates and electoral associations and also of foreign (international) observers.

During the signing of the election returns, members of the district electoral commission who do not agree with the content of the returns are entitled to compose their

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own dissenting opinion and append it to the returns, and a record of this is entered in the returns accordingly.

All the documentation of electoral commissions at all levels, including ballot papers, is to be stored for the period established by federal laws and by laws and other normative legal acts of legislative (representative) organs of state power of Russian Federation components. At the same time, the established period of storage of ballot papers must be not less than one year, and in the case of the electoral commissions' returns, not less than one year from the day the date of the next elections is announced.

Article 33. The publication of the results of voting and election results

The results of the ballot in each electoral precinct and the results of elections in the electoral district in the form of the data contained in the returns of the relevant electoral commission and the electoral commissions immediately below it must be made available for study by any voter, candidate, observer, or representative of the mass media.

District electoral commissions which carried out the registration of candidates (lists of candidates) send overall figures on the results of the elections in the electoral district to the mass media within three days after the end of the elections.

Electoral commissions at all levels apart from precinct level publish the full information contained in the returns of the electoral commission at the relevant level on the results of the elections and the returns of electoral commissions immediately below it on the results of the ballot, on the basis of which the results of the elections in the relevant electoral commissions have been summed up. Publication must take place within a month after the end of the elections.

Chapter IX. Liability for Violating Citizens' Electoral Rights

Article 34. Liability for violating citizens' electoral rights

Persons who, by means of coercion, deceit, threats, forgery, or other methods, hinder the free exercise by a Russian Federation citizen of the right to elect and be elected, or persons who knowingly circulate false information about candidates or commit other actions defaming the honor and dignity of candidates, and equally persons who carry out campaigning on the day before election day or on election day or who hinder the work of the electoral commissions or the voting at polling places are liable under federal laws.

Chapter X. Concluding Provisions

Article 35. Entry into force of the present Federal Law

The present Federal Law enters into force on the day of its official publication.

Article 36. On the Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission

The Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission is to be formed not later than three months after the day the present Federal Law enters into force.

[signed] President of the Russian Federation B. Yeltsin

[dated] Moscow, the Kremlin, 6 December 1994

No. 56-FZ

New UPR Party Opposes 'Move to Capitalism'

MK1512131094 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 15 Dec 94 p 2

[Unattributed report under the "Non-Stop Around the Clock" rubric: "Umalatova Offers Resistance"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sazhi Umalatova must have thought that it is no longer proper for her to go around in the role of chairman of a mythical "standing presidium of the congress of people's deputies of the USSR," and has founded a party of her own—a Union of People's Resistance [UPR].

The UPR brings together both individual citizens opposing the country's move toward capitalism, and several small communist organizations including Terekhov's Officers Union. The UPR's tasks coincide with the plans of Anpilov's "Working Moscow"—to remove "Yeltsin's clique" from power with the aid of an all-Russia strike. Yet Anpilov has declined to keep company with Umalatova. Not wishing, perhaps, to share with his associate his much noisier and numerous group of support in the coming presidential elections.

Communists Express Concern Over Press Rights

MM1612101194 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Dec 94 p 1

["Deputies' Question to V.S. Chernomyrdin, Chairman of Russian Federation Government": "Challenge to Freedom of Speech"—PRAVDA headline]

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Viktor Stepanovich!

State Duma deputies representing the "Communist Party of the Russian Federation" association are extremely concerned at the reports which have appeared in the press that a draft government directive has been prepared on the creation of the Rossiyskaya Gazeta Information-Publishing Concern Closed-Type Joint-Stock Company, proposing the government which you head as one of its founders, and that its contribution to the charter fund would be the new editorial block at 24 Pravda Street.

It is perfectly clear that these intentions are founded on the desire of certain circles close to the government to smother the opposition press, particularly the oldest Russian newspaper PRAVDA, the popular newspaper

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SELSKAYA ZHIZN, and other publications. This is indicated by the undisguised claims of the government's ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA to the premises occupied by PRAVDA and by the right enshrined in the new concern's charter to offer "financial rescue packages" ["sanatsiya"] to other newspapers and journals.

First, we would like to draw your attention to the fact that such points openly contradict Russian Federation legislation, particularly the Law "On the Mass Media," which prohibits not only "financial rescue packages" but also any censorship.

Second, the very intention to take away from PRAVDA's editorial board the premises which it occupies is not just immoral but also blasphemous. It is well known that the building was built using CPSU funds -- party dues and money earned by party publications, by PRAVDA above all. Moreover, PRAVDA employees participated directly in the building of this block on numerous Saturdays and Sundays of voluntary work.

We believe that such actions would constitute overt arbitrariness, which can only increase tension in the already very complex sociopolitical situation in Russia.

Communist deputies would like to hope that this time the government will halt lawlessness, not allow new monopolism in the press, and not throw down a challenge to freedom of speech and democracy.

We hope for the government's fair decision and for the transfer of the premises currently occupied by the PRAVDA and SELSKAYA ZHIZN editorial boards and by the other publications housed in the new block at 24 Pravda Street to the operational disposal of these editorial boards. Just as it did in Decree No. 1132 with regard to ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA.

[Signed] T. Astrakhankina, V. Zorkaltsev, G. Zyuganov, A. Ionov, A. Lukyanov, and other State Duma deputies and members of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation faction.

Nazarchuk Looks To Strenthen Government Support

LD1512203794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1828 GMT 15 Dec 94

["Exclusive" report No. 50 of 100]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russian farmers have marked their professional holiday—Agricultural Workers' Day traditionally coinciding with the end of the farming season—without the old enthusiasm. The decline in agriculture continues and according to estimates will amount to 8 percent compared to last year.

Immediately after appointment the Agriculture and Food Minister Aleksandr Nazarchuk declared his approach: To strengthen government support for agriculture and related industries. "There is no other way, and the deepening crisis in farming will inevitably make the Russian authorities realize that," he stressed at the beginning of his interview with Interfax.

INTERFAX: First of all, we would want to hear some details of the results of the farming year.

NAZARCHUK: Alas, they are far from reassuring. Russia took in the lowest grain harvest in 13 years: 84 million tons or 15 million less than in 1993. The gross sugar beet harvest was almost half of what it was last year (25.5 million tons) and as a result sugar supplies will be one of the acutest problems for us.

Potato production shrank 7 percent (39 million tons in 1993), vegetables from 9.8 to 9 million tons. The sales of meat are expected to drop by 17 percent and milk by 16 percent.

Still the farmers did their utmost in the current difficult conditions of transition to a market economy. But they lacked government support to satisfy public needs in full.

The results of the farming year in individual republics of the Russian Federation convincingly prove that. For instance, in Tatarstan, where the authorities use the more independent status of the territory and offer more support to agriculture, the average grain yield was 27 centners per hectare and at two farms it even exceeded 70 centners. Farmers in Udmurtia also did well. Our ministry held there a national conference a few days ago on the introduction of new technologies in agriculture.

All that goes to prove that farming requires government support. Not everything has been lost, but if we do not realize that now, if we do not fully understand the need for such support, we are going to ruin the Russian countryside completely.

INTERFAX; Will the new financial injections in agriculture and related industries help in conditions of mutual debts and continuing inflation?

NAZARCHUK; It is true that the main problem today is the grave financial position of farm producers who owe energy, engineering, chemical and other manufacturing companies about 13 trillion rubles while the belated wages of farmers and employees in related industries exceed one trillion rubles. Others owe food and processing companies too, but the delays in the payment of earnings cannot be justified by anything.

As for the general level of profitability of cooperatives, state farms and others, it did not exceed 3.3 percent compared to 40 in 1991 (without payment of bank interest). Over 3000 farms are on the verge of bankruptcy. According to the results of the year, about one third of companies in agriculture and related industries will be declared unprofitable and the bankruptcy law will have to be applied to them.

How can one expect prosperity when the cost of material resources and production costs increased in farming from 7.2 trillion rubles in 1993 to 32.4 trillion in 1994

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while the profits of farms last year totalled 4.6 trillion compared to less than one trillion in the first half of 1994?

I am listing all these figures to prove that farm producers will not be able to pay back the postponed loans of the Central Bank and the 1994 credits totalling about 10 trillion.

Together with the Duma committee for agriculture I intend to support the government resolution drafted by our ministry experts which provides for the postponement of the payment of credits till January 1, 1999 and their payment in equal installments in five years without interest.

At the same time I do not tend to go to the extremes and claim that everything has collapsed in the countryside. We must find ways out of the situation. We must not let the country loose self- sufficiency in food. Certain groups are pushing Russia to that and the example of sugar can show what is in for us. Between 1986 and 1990 Russia annually grew an average of 28 million tons of sugar beet. This year it collected not more than 14 million tons which means the public will not get 1.5 million tons of sugar.

With such a forecast during the past half a year international sugar prices for Russia grew by $100 for one ton: we are offered sugar at $420 for one ton while it has never cost more than 320.

The worst thing is that I recently read an article in Izvestia by a new presidential advisor Aleksandr Livshits claiming that it is no tragedy, if the Russian food market relies 80 percent on imports. I am convinced that it would be more than a tragedy. It is horrible, if Russia were to step up the exports of raw materials and import food. And this is said not by a layman, but a politician influencing to some extent the views of the head of state and the public opinion.

That is why the Agriculture Ministry is determined to actively defend the interests of agriculture and related industries, our own producers in the government development program till 1997 and influence the government farming policy.

INTERFAX: Do you mean to say that a minister's portfolio is a heavy burden?

NAZARCHUK: That is no problem for me, though I was not born a minister, of course, and never opted for the portfolio. But as the chairman of the Duma committee for agriculture I had to be constantly in touch with the ministry and government. And then I was in charge of agriculture in Altay region, a whole country in fact.

INTERFAX: Now that you mentioned your old job, could you tell us a little more about yourself. Please, introduce yourself to Interfax subscribers.

NAZARCHUK: I am Ukrainian even though I was born in Altay region, Siberia. I finished a farming college there in Barnaul with a degree in agronomy in 1964.

My life is quite ordinary, just the same as of thousands of Soviet people. Between 1964 and 1975 I worked in agriculture in Altay region first as a chief agronomist and then the director of two state farms. In 1975 I was promoted to Soviet and party work, as we used to say in those days: I headed the executive committee of a district Soviet, the Communist Party chapters of one and then another district.

Between 1987 and 1989 I worked as the first deputy chairman and then chairman of the regional agroindustrial committee, the first deputy chairman of the executive committee of the Altay regional Soviet. In March 1990 I was elected to the Russian Supreme Soviet in which I was a member of the agricultural committee and the Agrarian Union parliamentary group.

To the State Duma I was elected on the party ticket of the Agrarian Party as I am a Board member of the party's Central Council.

INTERFAX: What about your family?

NAZARCHUK: My family heard about my appointment over the radio even before I told them. My wife is a doctor working as coroner in Barnaul. Our daughter also has a degree in medicine, but she is now at home raising her child. Our son finished the engineering department of the Barnaul polytechnical college and works at a fodder equipment plant of the Agrosib corporation.

I live in a hotel in Moscow because when Duma members were offered apartments, there was a shortage of 20 apartments and I refused the one offered to me as a committee chairman.

Now I have to bring my family here, of course, the backing of a minister like any other man should be strong.

INTERFAX: What about your backing at work?

NAZARCHUK: That goes without saying. I intend to strengthen it even though I do not like reshuffles. A week after my appointment I issued orders to improve the ministry structure and the management of the agroindustrial complex in general. We are going to redistribute the duties of deputy ministers and the powers of key divisions.

This is not a whim, not an attempt of a new broom to sweep in its own way: the situation in Russian agriculture like in the rest of the economy has cardinally changed in the past few years and we should not turn a blind eye on that. The change of ownership has happened, new objectives have been put forward, reforms are under way though not always in the right direction. The outdated methods of management by order are unacceptable in the new conditions.

First of all I do not want ministry officials to look with blank eyes at representatives of the territories, I want

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them to be able to give some advice, try to resolve problems and sometimes simply sympathize with people.

We also have problems in our relations with other ministries and agencies, with the presidential staff etc.

One thing is clear today: I am short of time, I do not manage to do everything that must be done.

INTERFAX: What do you think was wrong in the actions of your predecessor, the old minister?

NAZARCHUK: I will repeat now what I said when I was presented to the ministry staff: I have never spoken for the dismissal of Viktor Khlystun even though we did not agree with him always and on all points. Some people say now that Khlystun was a supporter of the state and Nazarchuk is a clear and ardent lobbyist.

Well, I think that my lobbying, if the expression is in place here, in the Duma and now is for the benefit of the cause, for the benefit of agriculture which is a supreme manifestation of statesmanship. Because farming is a branch of the economy that is the foundation of any country. Here Khlystun and I approach the problem from different angles.

I realize, of course, that as a cabinet member I must grasp economic problems in general, realize the difficulties related to the formation of the 1995 federal budget. However, it is my opinion that every person should be responsible for one's own job. One should not only complain about the absence of money and attribute everything to that. Those who are responsible for the revenue should find means to fill the treasury and must be accountable for that.

Take just one example. In the first nine months of the year the production of alcoholic drinks in Russia dropped by almost 50 percent compared with the same period last year. Do you think we drink less? Unfortunately, not: the wretched thing is sold 24 hours a day and consumed 24 hours a day. But we no longer drink our own alcohol as we are packed with imported stuff. If we had produced this bitter stuff at least as much as in 1993, the treasury would have got 2 trillion rubles more in excise duties.

If the government had given the money to support the countryside, many problems could have been resolved. In conditions of a transitional period government regulation in agriculture in particular should not be forgotten.

INTERFAX: You have been criticized to put it mildly for such an approach many times. Hasn't that affected you in any way?

NAZARCHUK: Why should I conceal that? Now and then I hear: Nazarchuk is a conservative, Nazarchuk is an opponent to reforms. Neither my colleagues, nor I should be reproached for that. As the head of a farm I was under constant pressure from my bosses, I constantly faced the unbridled desire to order others about. We, the heads of cooperative and state farms, always wanted to get more power, independence.

I think reforms should be directed primarily at such independence. One should keep and protect the sacred and inviolable right of a farm producer to his produce, the fruit of his work and give him the right to sell it for profit. In this respect I am all for reforms.

In the process of change we should also preserve the material foundations of agriculture built over seven decades. It is an open secret that we are destroying the foundation when we divide the production potential and disperse the personnel.

The main thing is to reform production relations. Let us see: will we be getting 80 percent of food from abroad or will we produce it ourselves? And one more thing: the government has placed 93 percent of land in private hands which means management, the entire pyramid of control over agriculture and related industries should be changed.

Unfortunately, the size of the rural population is growing in Russia at the expense of refugees and the reduction of migration to cities. Simultaneously agricultural production is falling every year and labor productivity shrinking. Sad as it is, the skills are slipping: we have almost stopped training experts and upgrading their skills.

We have decided definitely at the ministry to support and encourage all good initiatives. Much has been done, for instance, to strengthen foreign economic activities, to find new sources of investments. As no government investments are planned for 1995, as it is probably unnecessary to invest budget means in privatized companies, we need regular investment credits, primarily for protected projects and what is most important control over their returns.

Honestly speaking I do not know a sphere of agriculture to which private investments could be channelled as everything seems unprofitable.

Yes, private investments to agriculture are necessary. But at the present stage when it is more rewarding to make money through money, through Black Tuesdays, one can hardly find people willing to invest in farming. Unfortunately, businessmen in agriculture and related industries do not have spare money: this is not a sphere in which it is possible to make a fortune overnight.

INTERFAX: The leader of the Agrarian Party Mikhail Lapshin has told Interfax that Nazarchuk came to the minister's office to defend the interests of farmers, not to play to someone else's tune. He said Anatoliy Chubays believes that as Nazarchuk has been sent to this office he is going to play according to the rules of the cabinet. What do you think of it?

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NAZARCHUK: My opinion is quite simple: the cabinet is not a company with unwritten rules. We have a constitution in which the functions of a minister are clearly inscribed. This means that one should act in keeping with the fundamental law and be guided by it. If the budget law says that this sum is going to be spent on agriculture, a minister is bound to observe it instead of following the lead of Chubays who claims that the countryside can survive without the money.

INTERFAX: But will your approach find support among other cabinet members?

NAZARCHUK: The question troubles me greatly. But these are not just my personal concerns, or the concerns of the Agrarian Party, these are the concerns of all Russian farmers. We have not had a war or a nation-wide earthquake which would have caused the death of agriculture in our eyes.

I agree that the country does not need the amount of howitzers is used to produce, as Prime-Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin says, but as for food Russia is importing everything from bread to potatoes. In a word it is shameful and humiliating to think that the country can survive through the charity of others.

It is not accidental that over half of the Duma members three times supported us during the three voting on the draft law on purchases of farm goods for state reserves.

Besides, I am not calling to go back and reverse the course of history, it is not worth the time. But it is criminal, to say the least, to let agriculture be regulated by market laws alone.

So if I am told tomorrow to leave my ministerial post, I will not give up my views: agriculture will not survive without government regulation in such an economic situation, with such disproportions in prices as in Russia today. Just look: since 1991 the prices of resources used by farming have been growing at a speed four times greater than the prices of farm goods. If the government does not intend to regulate prices, it should support agriculture and related industries through subsidies, compensations, tax benefits and credits.

It is the first and foremost condition that farming should be regulated. Secondly, the concentration, power- consumption and technical equipment of agriculture is growing through the world. Are we doing correctly when we place the emphasis in reforms on small farms, is it justified to split big farming companies? I think the answer is clear even to a school boy.

I favor the promotion of private farming, the diversity of forms of cultivating land, but then 38,000 private farms that appeared in Russia after the beginning of reforms have ceased to exist. Tell me how should I look people in the eyes. It was us who dragged them into private farming but did not support them properly and as a result of such experimenting they cannot make ends meet.

I know that I will be criticized but I am no supporter of the mechanical growth of the number of private farms. The main thing is to make them commodity producers, not self-sufficient family units. By the way in my native Altay we chose this road and the president during his working visit to the region could see that when he was shown private farms.

In my opinion two things should determine our approach to family farming: firstly, they should improve the life of the farmer and his family, secondly, benefit the country more than if the farmer had been working at a collective or state farm.

INTERFAX: But what if you fail to win the support of the rest of the cabinet?

NAZARCHUK: Take a closer time. If the final version of the federal budget does not keep support for agriculture at 10 percent of the spending like in 1993 and 1994, I will not back it, even though I am a cabinet member.

Chernomyrdin knows my stance. When we met and discussed things, I told him: as long as I work here I will defend the interests of agriculture and farmers.

Will such an approach find understanding? I am convinced that the situation taking shape in the country should make the authorities arrive at the conclusion that Russia has no other way out.

INTERFAX: But the Agrarian Party reserved the right to recall its leading member Nazarchuk from the post of agriculture minister, if he does not find support in the government. The deputy chairman of the party Nikolay Kharitonov said so in an Interfax interview. He said that during the past three years Russian agriculture has been so ruined by the experiments of Russian woeful reformers that one minister wise as he might be is unable to stop the continuing fall into an abyss.

NAZARCHUK: If the party leadership suggests that I leave the ministerial post, I will most certainly do so. As a board member of the party I am determined to fully pursue its policy.

I am sure, though, that people will understand the approach of the Agrarian Party. Chernomyrdin has voiced many time his support for the agro-industrial complex and opposition to the splitting of major collective farms.

INTERFAX: And the last question. Whom would you want to see as your follower as the chairman of the Duma committee for agriculture? Or are you planning to combine the two posts?

NAZARCHUK: That is impossible, even though I do not want to lose support in the Duma. As for the new committee chairman, most members want to elect a leading figure in agriculture, Anatoliy Vorontsov, who heads a farming cooperative in Bryansk region (West Russia) as well as the Russian Council of Cooperative Farms, to the post. I recommended him, by the way.

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Vorontsov is no youngster, he is 60 now. He is deeply respected in the countryside. He was a member of the last Soviet parliament. He was elected to the Duma from his territory, not on the party ticket. He joined the Agrarian Party group in the Duma as the deputy chairman of the party and was elected to the agriculture committee.

Vorontsov is also the deputy chairman of the Agrarian Union (led by Vasiliy Starodubtsev) that unites Russia's biggest farms.

Economic Issues

EBRD Reconfirms Tokobanks's $35 Million

LD1512225794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2232 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Dec 15 (FIA)—The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) has reconfirmed its obligations to their Russian bank-partner, Tokobank, and on Thursday [15 December] transferred $35 million to Tokobank's account in accordance with the deal, executive Vice President of Tokobank Pavel Nefidov reported to the Financial Information Agency.

Following prolonged negotiations on September 29 in Moscow, the EBRD and Tokobank signed an agreement which stipulates that the Russian bank sold its shares totalling $35 million to the European bank. A representative of the EBRD has become a member of Tokobank's board. This is an unprecedented agreement for the EBRD because for the first time in its practice it made direct investments in Russia's private banking sector.

In accordance with the agreements, the transfer of $35 million to Tokobank was scheduled for December.

Banking observers point out that the deal was made against the background of political tension caused by the worsening of the situation in Chechnya. However, they believe that the European Bank has demonstrated a rather firm intention to enter the Russian market.

The timely execution of the agreement's provisions lead us to believe that the EBRD assesses the situation in Russia as relatively stable, sources in the Financial Information Agency say.

Tokobank, one of the largest banks in the Russian banking system, invests money in fuel and energy complex, metallurgy, and Russia's foreign trade.

Official Discusses Borrowing Policy, Deficit

MM1512162194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Dec 94 First Edition p 3

[Interview with Mikhail Kasyanov, director of the Russian Federation Finance Ministry Foreign Credits and External Debt Department, by Yelizaveta Leontyeva; date and place not given: "You Borrow Someone's Else Money and Pay Back Your Own. Next Year the Government Will Borrow 30.6 Trillion Rubles in Credit. This Money Will Be Used to Cover the Budget Deficit"—first three paragraphs are introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] The plan is that the deficit built into the 1995 draft budget will be covered in two ways this time: By issuing state securities totalling 43 trillion rubles [R] and by borrowing credit to the tune of R30.6 trillion.

This new approach to the budget is due, first, to the abandonment of the customary Central Bank credits and, second, to the ease with which credits are obtained abroad. This is no problem for Russia as a responsible payer.

Today Mikhail Kasyanov, director of the Russian Federation Finance Ministry Foreign Credits and External Debt Department, talks about the credit problem.

[Leontyeva] Mikhail Mikhaylovich, are you not troubled by such a big sum that we have to borrow from foreign states? It is equivalent to Russia's entire borrowing in 1992 alone but we will have to go on paying and paying for it....

[Kasyanov] I am not bothered by this at all because the emphasis in loans nowadays is placed on credit resources that are "not tied," that is, they are given not in the form of consumer goods, equipment, grain, or raw materials but in the form of money which will enable us to fund the budget deficit directly. Thus, compared with 1992, the quality of loans is changing radically.

In 1992 we took about $12 billion in "tied" loans but in 1994 that figure was just $3.2 billion (for the purchase of equipment and medicines alone). Meanwhile, the total volume of credits remains virtually unchanged. This means that this year 75 percent of our loans will be in the form of "untied" credit. I presume that the situation will be no worse than that in 1995.

[Leontyeva] What is the average debt repayment period today? Bearing in mind the large volume of the credits this is a not unimportant question for Russia, don't you agree?

[Kasyanov] The loan repayment periods have changed because the structure of the debt has changed. The average period is to be eight years. The fact that we are abandoning consumer goods, raw materials, and so forth should be helpful there. Thus borrowing in 1995 will not impose a significant burden on the years to come in terms of servicing this new Russian debt. Even such a sizeable debt.

[Leontyeva] Since we are borrowing credits not in the form of consumer goods but of money, why are we surrounded by stacks of imported clothing everywhere? All these foreign goods, not our own, not this country's. Is that not connected with the debt problem?

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[Kasyanov] No, it is not. In the purely financial sense the government has nothing to do with this. It simply created the conditions whereby goods arrived here. In 1992, yes, the government did buy a very great deal but not now. What we are seeing now is the new market, new business.

However, the government, in an attempt to economize on resources which it borrows abroad, is even stopping buying equipment for enterprises. They must invest their own money here themselves.

[Leontyeva] But what will happen to grain now? It used to be so difficult for us to manage without grain purchases.

[Kasyanov] To date there have been no government decisions to take loans to fund grain purchases. In any event, I do not know of any. Furthermore, the concept of credits which has been existing for over a year now excludes the borrowing of funds for such purchases. Admittedly, there was a small residue carried over—at the beginning of 1994 grain supplies arrived under the old credits....

[Leontyeva] So in the new budget it has been decided to cover the deficit using foreign sources totalling R30.6 trillion. But there is more to it than that—let us add here the amount to clear the main debt, which also has to be done. Does that mean that we will have to borrow more?

[Kasyanov] Around R32 trillion. Talks on the loan are underway now and are proceeding fairly successfully.

[Leontyeva] Well, giving loans is a profitable business. Repaying them is a different matter...

Market Mechanisms Seen To Solve Food Shortages

MM1512161594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Dec 94 p 2

[Article by Valeriy Konovalov: "There Will Be Enough Food for Winter, Provided Customers Have Enough Money"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Will it be a hungry winter? This question is of concern at least to Muscovites, who have heard that the latest session of the capital's government discussed the minimum amount of food stocks in the city. Nor is it an idle question for the inhabitants of other regions, who have not yet forgotten the food shortages. But how do things really stand?

The Moscow authorities really do have serious problems supplying the population with food. Food stocks for the winter now are less than they were last year. Certain disruptions have already occurred in trade in butter and sour cream and will obviously occur with sugar. But the problem is resolved each time. In a perfectly market-based manner, moreover.

As soon as a shortage of a relatively inexpensive product arises, a short while later the commercial stores place this product on their counters at higher prices. Consumption is regulated by demand and by the population's purchasing power. These processes and mechanisms have not yet been honed, and so sometimes particular foodstuffs disappear.

The main point is that overall food stocks in the capital differ substantially in terms of volume from those that featured at the government session, for nobody took into consideration the scale of the activities of commercial food structures, which are increasingly playing a part in supplying city folk with food. I have questioned several private store owners who are perfectly optimistic about the winter. Of course, the difficulties of Moscow's government play into their hands—they will be able to dictate prices.

But the Moscow authorities still have means to supply that part of the population with little purchasing potential. There is ongoing litigation with the federal government with regard to changing the level of food import tariffs for large cities. Talks are proceeding with the regions that supply food.

The regions do have food to supply to large cities. According to our data, vast amounts of unclaimed foodstuffs—grain, meat, milk—have now built up in the majority of oblasts and krays which traditionally supply large cities with food. The problem is one of prices. Suppliers try to justify their production costs and bide their time with contracts. The city authorities try to use the minimum amount from their budgets to make purchases. This standoff cannot last forever. The food glut in the regions is fraught with the producers' ruination. The need to provide the population with food is also a political question. The whole problem is: Whose nerves will give out first? The bans which some local authorities have imposed on exports of food from the regions, as in Voronezh Oblast, say—which we reported recently—are also in this category. The market aspirations of local producers, given a demand for their products outside the region, must not be endlessly curbed.

It is already possible to forecast that this winter there will be no shortage of basic meat and dairy products or bread. The existing stocks and reserve and the prospects for producing these products in correlation with the population's purchasing power are sufficient to meet the needs. Only the price of foodstuffs could be a problem for the customer.

The matter is more complex with regard to sugar. According to the data of specialists of the "SovEkon" Analysis Service, a sharp drop in sugar beet production is expected this year. It will fall 43 percent compared with last year. Given the fact that the sugar beet harvest has also failed in Ukraine this year and deliveries of sugar from Cuba are declining, there might be major difficulties on our sugar market, and the high rate of growth in sugar prices will persist at least through the beginning of next year.

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Officials Discuss Possible 'Pyramid' Scheme

MM1512154594 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 15 Dec 94 p 3

[Report by Yelena Loriya: "'Khoper' No Different From Others"]

[FBIS Translated Text] History has a tendency to repeat itself with a certain periodicity. It would appear that the "Khoper" company is following in the footsteps of the sadly famous "MMM." The fall of MMM began with isolated remarks by President Yeltsin about the company's unreliability, then a ban followed on the screening of MMM advertising trailers by state TV companies, and subsequently Mavrodi was arrested....

Last week First Vice Premier Anatoliy Chubays, chairman of the Russian Federation Government Federal Commission for Securities and the Stock Market, stated at a press conference that virtually all securities issued by the Khoper group "fail to comply with existing legislation."

Svetlana Bakhmina, deputy leader of Khoper's legal department, attributed Chubays' statement to "a certain failure of communication." According to Bakhmina, a letter sent to the company demanding the presentation of documents on the firm's incorporation and the place and date of its registration, the offer prospectus, information on its activity, the conditions for the sale of shares, and so forth arrived too late. The deadline for supplying the documents was 28 November, and the letter arrived 30 November. So the mail should be blamed for all Khoper's misfortunes....

Well, according to Ministry of Internal Affairs information, 36 of Khoper's 59 regional branches alone have attracted 57.5 billion rubles. The major part of the cash collected is sent to Moscow to the closed joint-stock society Khoper-Invest, "where the trail is lost."

The Central Bank's Main Administration for Moscow said that Khoper, like MMM, operates on the pyramid principle, but the Central Bank can make no complaints against the company because that lies outside its sphere of influence.

According to Chubays, the Federal Commission for Securities is not yet ready to charge Khoper with fraud, but if full information on the company's activity is not presented in response to its second request by 1 January 1995 the commission "will take the toughest measures necessary to protect citizens' interests."

Meanwhile Khoper's ad, which features Garri Kasparov, goes out on all television channels. It must be said that here Khoper has gone further than MMM—after all, Garri Kasparov is one better than Victoria Ruffo, for all the people's love for her. It remains to await 1 January 1995, when all the i's should be dotted, and to hope that Sergey Mavrodi's fate will not overtake Khoper's President Lev Konstantinov.

Military, Nuclear Issues

Government Approves Chernobyl Housing Program

MM1612115394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Dec 94 Weekend Edition p 3

[Untitled report from ITAR-TASS roundup under the "Urgent and Brief" rubric]

[FBIS Translated Text] A draft state targeted program to provide housing for people involved in eliminating the aftermath of the accident at the Chernobyl Nuclear Electric Power Station provides for 1.696 million square meters of housing to be commissioned during 1995-99.

Sergey Shoygu, minister for affairs of civil defense, emergency situations, and elimination of natural disasters, announced this at a government session yesterday.

The minister asserted that invalids and families which lost the breadwinner as a result of the accident will be the first to be provided with well-appointed housing. To this end, he remarked, it is proposed to commission 252,000 square meters of housing next year.

First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets proposed reducing the time for implementing the program from five to three years. The Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposed document on the whole.

A draft general scheme of resettlement on the territory of Russia, as well as the Russian Federation draft laws "On Foreign Economic Activity" and "On Federal Natural Resources," were also examined at the Russian Federation Government session yesterday.

Commander Discusses Strategic Missile Force

MK1512142094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Dec 94 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Colonel General Igor Sergeyev, commander of the Strategic Missile Forces, by Ilshat Baychurin in the "Wars and Armies" column: "Russia's Nuclear Missiles Are Not Targeted Anywhere. But the Strategic Missile Forces Are on Combat Duty"; place and date not given—first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] On 17 December 1994 the Strategic Missile Forces will be marking their 35th anniversary. We offer our readers an interview with Col. Gen. Igor Sergeyev, commander in chief of the Strategic Missile Forces.

[Baychurin] In accordance with the Main Propositions of the Military Doctrine, Russia today has no obvious enemies. Will this lead to a revision of plans for using the Strategic Missile Forces?

[Sergeyev] One basic principle underlying the Russian military doctrine is the formation of qualitatively new relations in the military-strategic sphere, based on our

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country's integration into the world community, new forms of partnership and collaboration in addressing complex international problems.

As for plans of using the Strategic Missile Forces, the following needs to be said here. As warheads are reduced, the Strategic Missile Forces' missions are naturally being adjusted. In line with the agreement reached between the heads of nuclear states, we have conducted a complex of measures aimed at the nontargeting of strategic missiles. As envisioned, this work was completed by 30 May of this year.

[Baychurin] What is the essence of the "nontargeting" regime?

[Sergeyev] This regime is implemented in the form of combat duty carried on according to a plan whereby intercontinental ballistic missiles have "zero" flight missions, i.e., they are not targeted anywhere. At the same time, the combat readiness of the Strategic Missile Forces is maintained, and they are still capable of accomplishing combat tasks when corresponding orders are issued.

[Baychurin] Can the absence of words about the no first use of nuclear weapons in our military doctrine be regarded as Russia's readiness unconditionally to deliver a nuclear strike on any potential enemy?

[Sergeyev] No. And this "no" in the doctrine is explained by the phrase that Russia still firmly and unequivocally (we would like other states to act in the same manner) adheres to principles of resolving conflict situations without using not only nuclear but also conventional weapons. As for strategic offensive armaments, proceeding from this, they should be seen primarily as a means of averting not only a nuclear but also a conventional war.

At the same time, there is a danger of any war with conventional armaments growing into a nuclear conflict or nuclear war. Especially when the supreme national interests of the conflicting sides are at stake. Therefore, paraphrasing a well-known saying, it can be said that in order that "missiles not speak," "guns must be made silent." If all disputes and contradictions (of any nature: territorial, ethnic, economic, or religious) are resolved in a peaceful way, then I believe nuclear weapons will have played their role.

[Baychurin] Earlier, the task of deterrence was based mostly on inflicting "unacceptable" damage. On what, in your opinion, should deterrence be based in the new military-political conditions?

[Sergeyev] In line with the main propositions of the military doctrine, the task of nuclear deterrence must be carried out with respect to any potential enemies. With regard to the United States, however, it is more expedient to adhere to the balance of combat capabilities, especially considering that the category of "unacceptable" damage does not have a uniform quantitative definition.

Furthermore, the resolution of the task of deterrence with respect to any potential enemy poses additional requirements. Our nuclear forces must be capable of operating in a broad spectrum of ranges, within the briefest possible time spans. To be sure, this calls for the utmost accuracy, promptness of retargeting, flexibility of control, and all forms of combat provisions. [passage omitted]

[Baychurin] Is there no contradiction between maintaining the high combat readiness of strategic rocket weapons and the new military-political relations between Russia and the United States?

[Sergeyev] High combat readiness is an organic quality of nuclear weapons. First, they were developed based on the requirement to maintain it over a long time period. Second, only high combat readiness can ensure the execution of the functions of nuclear deterrence and a reliable oversight of the safe operation of all units and systems, and control over unauthorized actions by servicing personnel. And third, the high survivability of the missile complex grouping, which constitutes the basis of its effective combat employment in retaliatory actions, is ensured only by high combat readiness.

At the same time, the new military-political relations between the United States and Russia allow us to undertake a number of measures partially to downgrade the combat alert status of the missile grouping. One of them—combat duty in a "nontargeting" mode—I mentioned earlier. But there can also be other coordinated measures which would allow to increase the time available to resolve crisis situations peacefully. I would like to stress once again that these measures are capable of enhancing nuclear stability, conditional on adequate actions by nuclear powers.

[Baychurin] Will the planned reductions in Russia's intercontinental ballistic missiles under the START I and START II Treaties not lead to social tensions in the Strategic Missile Forces?

[Sergeyev] It might seem that downsizing the missile force grouping would mean that many officers would have to stop their professional activity. But this is not so. Because troop downsizing is proceeding slowly, and we keep virtually all those who want to serve and meet the set requirements. We also try to ensure further career opportunities for commissioned officers and noncommissioned officers who have not reached retirement age. If they so wish, we transfer them to serve in Russia from other CIS republics: Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Belorussia [Belarus]. And vice versa.

From the point of view of social consequences, these reductions, of course, cause new problems. Thus, they lead to the need to earmark additional expenditures for

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officer retraining programs, housing construction projects, and so forth. [passage omitted]

[Baychurin] These complicated conditions must make the operation of nuclear missile weapons more difficult.

[Sergeyev] Indeed, the operation of nuclear missile weapons has become more difficult. The peak of problems in this area has not been passed yet, although in 1994 we have managed to deal with maintenance and operation questions.

[Baychurin] How did you manage to do this?

[Sergeyev] There are a few factors here. First, the high credibility and reliability of missile complexes. Incidentally, this was also confirmed in the process of liquidation of more than 70 RSD-10 missiles by launching, with all the launches happening successfully. Second, the missile forces have an efficient organic weapon maintenance and operation system. The Strategic Missile Forces have a good maintenance and overhaul basis and also fine specialists in this field. I would like to stress that we have wonderful officers who successfully cope with the tasks set before them and, if necessary, can perform the job of two or three officers at a time. In other words, the officers are the gold stock of the Strategic Missile Forces.

[Baychurin] Igor Dmitriyevich, the Missile Forces apparently face many other, just as urgent problems, don't they?

[Sergeyev] [passage omitted] This year we have encountered serious problems relating to the mounting and maintenance of weapons. The possibilities of industrial cooperation, in which Russia was joined by Ukraine and Belorussia in the first place, have narrowed considerably (if not ceased to exist at all following the USSR's breakup). The repair of hardware manufactured on the basis of this cooperation has also become more complicated. As a result, we have reached a critical point where the consumption of the troop reserve of spare parts, tools, accessories, and other material resources was well above established standards. [passage omitted]

[Baychurin] Currently the political and economic situation in Russia is unstable. Do the Strategic Missile Forces take any extra precautions to tighten security at launch sites and other important installations of the Missile Forces?

[Sergeyev] [passage omitted] I can state with utmost responsibility that nuclear warheads of the Strategic Missile Forces are kept under continuing, uninterrupted control and are accounted for in the strictest possible manner. Moreover, owing to their design they inherently rule out any possibility of removing or seizing some part of radioactive materials from them. In other words, "leaks" of plutonium or uranium at Strategic Missile Forces installations are ruled out.

[Baychurin] What is the current role of the Strategic Missile Forces in the structure of the Nuclear Strategic Forces?

[Sergeyev] From their inception, the missile forces were the main component of the USSR, and later Russian, Nuclear Strategic Forces [NSF]. As for the present day, the Strategic Missile Forces account for nearly two-thirds of all strategic nuclear weapons delivery vehicles and three-fourths of the Russian NSF's megatonnage. The Strategic Missile Forces' key role in the Russian NSF is underpinned not only by the sheer number of its delivery vehicles or nuclear warheads. Our weapons incorporate the best achievements of a wide range of fundamental and applied scientific developments and technologies. For this reason I can state with utmost responsibility that their level of combat readiness is objectively the highest in the nuclear "triad;" they have state-of- the-art combat control systems, high precision, and are least vulnerable to enemy attacks during conventional wars. At the same time, while having high performance characteristics, missile systems of the Strategic Missile Forces require the lowest costs during all their life cycles: both at the development stage and at the stage of operation or elimination.

[Baychurin] I think that in this regard it would be pertinent to dwell on the following subject. The mass media have reported that the Strategic Missile Forces will soon adopt the "Topol-M" upgraded missile system. Have financial woes affected these plans?

[Sergeyev] Yes, now we are facing the important problem of completing the design stage and setting up the quantity production on the requisite scale of the "Topol-M" upgraded missile system with both silo-based and mobile single-warhead missiles exclusively at Russian industrial enterprises. Unfortunately, the financing of this program accounts for only one-third of what is required. At present, however, we have managed to solve technical problems relating to the project and also to create the requisite testing facility. So, I hope that "Topol-M" will be developed and become operational as scheduled.

[Baychurin] What can you say about the prospects for the evolution of the Strategic Missile Forces?

[Sergeyev] Priorities for the further evolution of the Strategic Missile Forces, as well as other NSF components, spring from the goals and principles of the organization of the Russian Armed Forces that were laid down in the Russian Federation military doctrine. The main goal of organizing the Strategic Missile Forces is to create a force that—in conditions of strategic offensive arms cuts—will ensure together with other NSF components a military-strategic balance ruling out the threat of unleashing war against Russia or its allies.

Dwelling in greater detail on priorities in the organization of the Strategic Missile Forces, they are as follows: to maintain reliable combat readiness of alert-status missile systems which were manufactured in the USSR

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on the basis of industrial cooperation; to complete the development of and to adopt for service the "Topol-M" Russian-made upgraded missile system with silo-based and mobile single warhead missiles.

At the same time we will continue to maintain alert-status missile systems combat-ready, including efforts to extend their service life, and also to improve even further troop and weapons combat command and control systems.

In accordance with a combat strength quota set by the General Staff for the Strategic Missile Forces and combat missions assigned to them, the Table of Equipment [TOE] structure of the troops' control agencies, training, alert status, and logistic systems will be defined in more precise terms. Of course, considerable effort will be required to comply with the START I and START II requirements regarding the elimination of nuclear weapons subject to cuts. This is another problem we are currently dealing with.

I would like to say a few words about reform of the Strategic Missile Forces within the framework of the organization of the Russian Armed Forces. It will be carried out in stages. By 1996 it is planned to disband or to move up to Russian territory a number of military units from the near abroad, to improve the TOE structure of troops, to start work on reequipping fixed-site missile systems with single-warhead missiles; from 1996 to the year 2000 it is planned to create the "core" of a force armed with single warheads on the basis of the existing "Topol" missile system and its upgraded silo-based version, "Topol-M;" to complete the disbanding of formations deployed in the near abroad and fully to carry out measures to cut down these forces under START I. In addition, it is planned to complete the switch to a mixed principle of manpower acquisition; at this stage—up to the year 2003—the Strategic Missile Forces will eliminate under START II all missile systems equipped with multiple warheads. Taking into account political, military, and economic conditions, directions of the forces' further evolution will be specified more accurately and development plans adjusted.

Therefore, in the process of reorganizing the Russian Federation Armed Forces, the Missile Forces will—now and in the long run—be charged with achieving three interrelated objectives. First, nuclear deterrence, which is the main factor of ensuring strategic stability and averting war, particularly now that the general- purpose forces have become considerably weaker. To achieve this objective, it is necessary continuously to maintain the established degree of combat readiness in the existing group of forces; second, to carry out reorganization and to improve the Missile Forces group in qualitative terms while reducing its quantity in terms of delivery vehicles and warheads; and third, to ensure the timely realization of the START I and START II treaties.

Undrained Submarine Reactors Pose 'Mortal' Risk

MM1512155394 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 15 Dec 94 p 3

[Report by Natalya Barabash under the "Scandals" rubric: "Will 'Trestles' Save the Nuclear Fleet"?]

[FBIS Translated Text] Maritime Kray—The settlement of Rakushka in Olginskiy Rayon has always been considered terribly secret in Maritime Kray. Though everyone knew about it. Decommissioned nuclear submarines found their last haven here, submarines whose reactors had not been drained of fuel, there being nowhere to transfer it to, nowhere to recycle it, and nowhere to bury it.

Back in the summer a visiting commission, set up as a result of a directive of the Maritime Kray Administration, came away aghast. Seven nuclear submarines, brimful with nuclear fuel, stood virtually unattended at their moorings. No one at the top-secret facility even stopped the inspectors: It turned out that the entire guard regiment had been reduced to a platoon. But they were shocked far more by the state of the mortally dangerous "flotilla."

In facilities capable of producing a catastrophe on the scale of Chernobyl "there is no coastal technical backup for security; there is no system of low- and high-pressure air or for draining the compartments, no bilge pumps or compressors; the technical condition of the outer hull and the outboard systems is unsatisfactory, the main ballast cisterns are leaky...."

Put more simply, the necessary temperature here was maintained by...ordinary, everyday, domestic heaters, which firemen do not allow to be placed even in student hostels. There was no light in the majority of compartments, since...electric lamps have long since ceased to be delivered to the base. All the submarine's auxiliary equipment, which might have been able to localize a potential fire, is out of order. The crew did not even have mooring ropes to secure the submarines in the event of a storm.

There is no great mystery about the reasons for this monstrous slovenliness: The Navy Main Staff, implementing cuts in the Armed Forces, issued a directive to save funds on the maintenance of the special subunit in Rakushka. The very subunit which was responsible for providing the submarine base with material and technical support. As a result a whole military unit was disbanded. Under the same wise directives from the center, the radiochemical and radiobiological laboratories in Rakushka suffered cuts, in other words the radiation control service was virtually destroyed. And in the event of a leakage of liquid radioactive waste no one will be able to help the servicemen remaining here: The radiobiological physician has also come under the axe....

Are we supposed to rely on Japan, which is just a stone's throw from here?

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Two weeks ago the commission again visited Rakushka. The situation had deteriorated and is now critical. The last inducted servicemen have left the base. The three five-story buildings in the settlement stand empty. The submarines are mainly serviced by officers who have nowhere to go to. And who, not surprisingly, take to drink on the quiet.

Because of the serious energy crisis which has hit Maritime Kray, all the kray's cities and settlements regularly have their power cut off. Because of someone or other's negligence, Rakushka was not entered on the list of facilities that are not liable to be switched off. And now, without any advance notification, the power is cut off for three or four hours at various times of the day. What could happen during one of these power cuts is terrible to imagine. The frozen water with its liquid radioactive waste could at any moment shatter the submarines' hulls and pipelines and spill into the bay. The sequel does not even bear thinking about.

Federal Assembly

Abdulatipov: Senate May Consider Yeltsin Ultimatum Today

MK1612091094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 16 Dec 94 p 2

[Report by Yelena Tregubova under the "Federation Council" rubric: "Senate Will Probably Have To Approve State of Emergency in Chechnya. Ramazan Abdulatipov Convinced That Discussing Chechen Status Now Would Make No Sense"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ramazan Abdulatipov, deputy chairman of the Federation Council, speaking with your SEGODNYA correspondent, did not rule out the possibility that at today's emergency session the senators will have to consider the presidential edict on imposing a state of emergency on Chechnya. "The deadline set by the presidential ultimatum on giving up weapons expired 15 December, and no one can predict for certain what might happen afterward," Mr. Abdulatipov said.

For the time being, the upper chamber has drawn up the text of "a response to the president" regarding his call for "the procedure and forms" of settling the Chechen conflict to be discussed. The version prepared by the Senate deputy chairman states that "the priority" at talks between Moscow and Groznyy should be "the defusing of the armed standoff." Ramazan Abdulatipov is also certain that "holding talks on Chechnya's status now would mean carrying the whole matter to a deadlock." In his view, Moscow should not insist on holding presidential elections in the republic either.

In his judgment, "now we need to raise the question of making preparations for only parliamentary elections in Chechnya and only with the new parliament to conduct a lengthy dialogue on relations with the federal center." The deputy speaker conceded, however, that if a large-scale military standoff begins today, any talk about any elections in Chechnya would be ruled out for a long time to come.

Shumeyko Proposes Chechnya Cease-Fire to Federation Council

LD1612083594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0759 GMT 16 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 16 Dec—Russian Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko has proposed that there should be a cease-fire in the Chechen republic by all sides beginning at 1500 hours on 16 December 1994 and that an observation and conciliation commission should be formed to settle the Chechen conflict at the highest level. Opening today's extraordinary session of the upper chamber, he read out his statement, addressed to the Russian Federation president, the prime minister, and the chairman of Russia's State Duma.

The speaker of the Federation Council believes that a further advancement of troop formations in the Chechen republic "is fraught with more bloodshed and a deepening of the conflict." He expressed confidence that the possibilities for a peaceful settlement of the situation in the Chechen republic have still not been exhausted and has proposed that there should be a cease-fire today by all sides. As far as an observation and conciliation commission is concerned, in Shumeyko's opinion, it should be set up as soon as possible and should coordinate all activities toward finding a way out of the crisis in the Chechen republic. He proposed that the cochairmen of the commission should be Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and also Ivan Rybkin and Vladimir Shumeyko, the chairmen of the two chambers of the Federal Assembly.

The Federation Council chairman proposed that talks between the working groups to work out a mechanism for a parallel process for the disarmament of the illegal formations and a stage-by-stage withdrawal of troop subunits from the territory of the Chechen republic should be resumed immediately. It is necessary also, in his opinion, to establish control over the disarmament process, preparations for free elections, and the coordination of the interests of the sides when forming the composition of a provisional administration of the Chechen republic.

Federation Council Not To Hold Confidence Vote on Shumeyko

LD1612121694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1050 GMT 16 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Dec 16 (INTERFAX)—Friday's [16 December] emergency session of

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the Federation Council will not vote on confidence in its speaker Vladimir Shumeyko. A vote on confidence proposed by the Federation Council's Security and Defense Committee Chairman Piotr Shirshov was rejected by Shumeyko who said more documents had to be presented, reasons for the confidence vote had to be explained, and the move itself had to be duly documented if the vote was to be held.

Ingush President Ruslan Aushev moved that the Federation Council reconsider its decision on the extension of the state of emergency in the zone of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict. The Federation Council lacked quorum when its position on President Yeltsin's decision to extend the state of emergency was put to vote, Aushev said, and every lawmaker present held up two, or even more, voting cards. Aushev's move was also rejected. The Federation Council is to hear, instead, a report from ex-chairman Doka Zavgayev of the Supreme Soviet of the Chechen-Ingush Republic.

Duma Refuses to Strip Zhirinovskiy of Immunity

LD1512120294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1100 GMT 15 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 15 TASS—The State Duma turned down today the request of the prosecutor-general's office to give its consent to instituting criminal proceedings against member of parliament Vladimir Zhirinovskiy. It was the second time the question was raised at the State Duma by Acting Prosecutor-General Aleksey Ilyushenko, who believes there are elements of the crime in Zhirinovskiy's statements and his book "The Last Thrust to the South."

The voting was preceded by the explanation of Vitaliy Sevastiyanov, chairman of the mandate commission, who told the State Duma that Ilyushenko's appeal was "taken into consideration", because he was not the official prosecutor-general, but only discharged his duties.

Three members of parliament—members of the mandate commission—expressed a different opinion and described the State Duma's decision as a "legal trick, which permits the lower chamber to do what it pleases." However, 81 members of the State Duma voted for instituting criminal proceedings against the leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia.

State Duma Passes Media Law

LD1512120194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1048 GMT 15 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 15 TASS—The federal law "on the procedure of the coverage of the activity of state authorities by the state mass media" was repeatedly passed by the State Duma on Thursday [15 December.

Mikhail Poltoranin, the chairman of the Duma committee on information policies and communications, who presented the document, said the repeated passage of the law was needed since it was turned down by the Federation Council and vetoed by the president. Poltoranin said the reason for the veto was Article Four in the law which said that "federal bodies of state authorities and bodies of state authority of subjects of the Russian Federation cannot found a periodical publication, except for those that publish only official reports and materials."

In this connection the deputies repeatedly passed the law without the given article. The article was submitted by the Duma as a supplement to the law on the media.

Deputies also suggested amendments and supplements to the law on the media regarding the coverage of the work of the state authority in the media.

The law was, specifically, supplemented with the provision that "state mass media are obliged to publish reports and materials of federal bodies of state authority and bodies of state authority of subjects of the Russian Federation in accordance with the procedure regulated by the law "on the procedure of the coverage of the activity of state authorities in the state mass media."

Regional Affairs

Round-up of Chechnya Situation; Dudayev Using Minors

LD1612115494 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 16 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a spokesman for the Mozdok provisional information center, it has been established that Dudayev is forming detachments of under-age fighters.

Over the past 24 hours armed Chechen gangs used Grad salvo-fire systems. An active search is underway for the remaining devices of these illegal armed formations in order to destroy them.

Over the past 24 hours Internal Affairs Ministry troops have reinforced their positions, protected communications on the territory of Chechnya, and have engaged in battle with Dudayev's illegal armed formations. Despite thick fog, helicopters of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs troops destroyed two enemy armored personnel carriers.

It is reported that Dudayev's illegal armed formations, together with Ingush and Dagestani detachments, engaged a subunit of Russian interior troops in the west. Snipers and armed Chechen fighters have been seen in the region of Khasavyurt, in Dagestan.

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Volunteers From Different Republics Fighting in Chechnya

LD1512172494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1605 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy, Dec 15 (Interfax)—"Several thousands of volunteers from different North-Caucasian republics and from Ukraine are participating in combat operations against the Russian forces", chief of the main headquarters of Chechnya's armed forces Aslan Maskhadov declared in an interview with Interfax Thursday [15 December].

Dudayev Confirms Intention To Continue Talks

LD1512181694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1753 GMT 15 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 15 Dec— A statement by Dzhokhar Dudayev was made public at a press conference in Groznyy, held well before the president of the Russian Federation addressed the people of the Chechen republic. In it, Dudayev confirmed Groznyy's intent to continue talks with Moscow.

Dudayev's statement confirms "the adherence to the principle of solving any kind of conflict problems exclusively by peaceful means."

The government of Chechnya "believes it is necessary to discontinue combat actions, withdraw the Russian troops from the territory of the Chechen republic of Ichkeria and without delay begin talks at the highest level without setting preliminary conditions," the statement says.

Chechen Cabinet of Ministers Favors Continued Talks

LD1612101294 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0930 GMT 16 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Our special correspondent Anton Zharov has just reported from Vladikavkaz that a report on a decision by the Cabinet of Ministers of Chechnya-Ichkeria has just arrived there. Cabinet members positively evaluated talks with a Russian working commission. For the continuation of the talks the Chechen Cabinet of Ministers proposes that a commission be formed at a higher level and that the talks should be conducted without any preliminary conditions. The Cabinet of Ministers also demanded that any military operations be halted and that troops should be withdrawn outside Chechnya.

According to reports transmitted by journalists, at the present moment the sitting is discussing the question of the return of the Chechen delegation to Vladikavkaz, possibly in a somewhat changed composition. Vyacheslav Mikhaylov, head of the Russian delegation, told journalists: we are true to our word and at the first proposal we are ready to continue the talks.

Dudayev Forces Reportedly Begin 1-Km Withdrawal

LD1612135494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1328 GMT 16 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 16 Dec—As the cease-fire order issued today by Dudayev reached the subunits of Groznyy's forces, they began to pull back by one kilometer from the line of contact with Russian subunits. Reports of this are starting to reach Dudayev's headquarters.

However, Chechnya's military leaders are concerned that the subunits of the Russian Interior and Defense Ministries, unaware of Dudayev's order, may begin an advance, thereby causing the Dudayev forces who have withdrawn from the line of contact to open fire.

Chechen-Talks Member Says Vladikavkaz Talks Not Halted

LD1512222994 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2100 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] First of all I would like to explain to you why I am filing my report on Mayak radio so late in the day. Every minute the mass media are repeating that awful phrase: The talks to settle the Chechen conflict have been halted. In order to give the lie to this phrase, to explain to our listeners what is in actual fact taking place, I invited Aleksandr Grigoryevich Asmolov, the deputy head of the Russian delegation at these talks, to speak over Mayak.

[Begin recording] [Asmolov] These reports that the talks in Vladikavkaz have been halted does not correspond to reality. I wish to stress this and to put a large question mark here. Today the delegation's head Vyacheslav Mikhaylov was in direct contact with Groznyy. He spoke to general procurator Usman Imayev. Imayev stated that in the course of the day Dudayev's cabinet of ministers would decide the question of expanding the status of the Chechen delegation and that the talks would definitely continue. Today was the day that Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin confirmed once more that the negotiating process with Chechnya must proceed and it will proceed as long as there remains the slightest chance of a peaceful political solution for this most difficult problem. At the present moment there is no other way. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Chechnya Considers Yeltsin's Offer To Raise Talk Level

LD1612065494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0627 GMT 16 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy December 16 TASS—Official Groznyy is considering the proposal of President Boris Yeltsin to raise the level of talks and postpone the arms surrender deadline for two days and said it offers new prospects for a peaceful settlement.

"The proposal opens new ways for a peaceful settlement", a spokesman of Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev told TASS on Friday [16 December].

He said Dudayev's aides got down to examining Yeltsin's address immediately after it was made public.

He added that "the initial opinion of the aides is shared in principle by the Chechen leadership", although the official reaction "will be collectively drafted in the near future".

Dudayev is expected to respond to Yeltsin's proposals on Friday, the spokesman said.

In an address to Chechen residents Yeltsin said that if Dudayev agrees to personally head the Chechen delegation at talks with Moscow the Russian president will send an "authorised high-level delegation".

The address stressed that "the best way out of the current situation would be to cease fire and sit down at the negotiating table without any preliminary conditions".

The Russian president also extended the deadline for arms surrender in Chechnya for 48 hours beginning from today in order "to bring to the minimum the use of force".

Chechen Opposition Leader Supports Yeltsin Appeal

LD1612095994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0937 GMT 16 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Bogdanov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 16 TASS—Yaragi Mamodayev, the head of the Chechen government in exile, has voiced his government support of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's appeal published on Thursday.

"I consider it very positive in the present situation," Mamodayev said in an interview with ITAR-TASS today.

"I hope that Boris Yeltsin has examined thoroughly all possible variants and has decided on "a way out worthy of both Chechnya and Russia," Mamodayev said.

According to Mamodayev, this way out lies through the restoration of the Chechen Constitution which "Dzhokhar Dudayev trampled on in his time".

The restoration of the Constitution would enable the republic's constitutional bodies, including the parliament, constitutional court, and the government of public trust, to resume their activity, Mamodayev said.

As concerns differences between the Chechen and the Russian federal Constitutions, they must be handled in the course of Russian-Chechen negotiations. Boris Yeltsin must act as the guarantor of the process, the Chechen opposition leader suggested.

"The events preceding the introduction of Russian troops showed that Dudayev is not backed by the entire Chechen people. Many people refused to get involved in that war between Dudayev and the anti-Dudayev forces," Mamodayev said.

Yeltsin Bid To Buy Ingushetia Loyalty Could Backfire

MK1612110094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 16 Dec 94 p 1

[Report by Aleksandr Bekker under the "Underlying Cause" rubric: "'BIN' Corporation May Explode Russian Finances. Why Mr. Grachev Said That 'Aushev Has Declared War on the President'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Finance Minister Panskov signed an important letter several days before Defense Ministry troops and Internal Ministry subunits entered Chechen territory. This document grants exclusive rights in the sphere of taxes to the "BIN" corporation, which represents in Moscow the interests of the Republic of Ingushetia. Any Russian legal entity that is registered or re-registered in "BIN" becomes exempt from paying all taxes toward the budget. The only exception is the income tax which an enterprise, firm, or private organization is supposed to pay at the rate of 10 percent (given the current rate of 35 percent for this country's enterprises). This sum, in accordance with the Finance Ministry letter, is payable by the "BIN" corporation to the free economic zone of Ingushetia. Thus, theoretically a situation is possible where all of Russia's legal entities would come in droves to "BIN," prompted by the tax situation there. Following this, the budget's revenue side will be undermined, ruining in the process the 1995 Russian Federation budget as well.

A competent source who provided the newspaper with this piece of information also explained what underlies the Finance Ministry letter. The exclusive treatment for "BIN" was granted by the president of Russia in exchange for Ruslan Aushev's (hence, Ingushetia's) loyalty when military formations pass across the territory of Chechnya's neighbor, Ingushetia, whose peoples belong to the same ethnic group and are related by blood. Despite the understanding reached with the president of Ingushetia and bolstered financially, its population did not welcome the Russian troops. It is this, it seems, that caused indignation of Defense Minister Grachev, who stated that "Aushev has declared war on the president of Russia."

As for the finance minister, Mr. Panskov, according to the same source, did not respond for several days to the inquiry sent by the federal treasury to the Finance

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Ministry on Boris Yeltsin's order, realizing the full consequences for the national financial system of granting to the exclusive rights to "BIN." The minister signed after they explained to him who precisely wanted his "autograph," and for which reasons.

If all the above information precisely corresponds with reality, the question suggests itself: Are the Finance Ministry letter and the "BIN" corporation prerogatives still in force after the difficult passage by Russian troops through Ingushetia's settlements?

Chechen Military Chief: Russian Forces 'Regrouping'

LD1612115594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1050 GMT 16 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy, Dec 16 (Interfax)—By latest reports, the Russian units on the slopes of the Terskiy Ridge eight to 10 kilometers north of Groznyy were regrouping on the morning of December 16 and did not try to advance on the city, Chechen chief of military headquarters Aslan Maskhadov told Interfax at 11:30 Moscow time.

He confirmed that the Chechen artillery did not fire at the Russian armored vehicles even though they were within its range.

Maskhadov said that the lull throughout Chechnya at noon Friday was interrupted by sporadic artillery exchanges. Russian helicopters flew past the Groznyy airport which had been destroyed in earlier air raids.

Maskhadov confirmed that about 50 Russian armored vehicles crossing the Terek River near the village of Chervlyonnaya northeast of Groznyy were drowned when Chechen fighters opened water gates.

This report has not been confirmed by other sources.

Yegorov Recalled to Moscow; Discusses Chechen Situation

LD1612131994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1236 GMT 16 Dec 94

[By Mikhail Shevtsov, ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mozdok, 16 Dec—Nikolay Yegorov, Russian deputy prime minister, who is in Mozdok, has been recalled to Moscow urgently. ITAR-TASS found out that this is connected with the Security Council's emergency sitting on Chechnya, due today.

Nikolay Yegorov got the news on board a helicopter on his way from Mozdok to Tolstoy-Yurt, a Chechen village. Together with Sergey Stepashin, head of the Federal Counterintelligence Service, he had intended to familiarize himself there with the situation on the spot and to check how the Russian troops that have entered the Chechen Republic have coped with their tasks.

Describing the situation in the Chechen Republic prior to flying to Moscow, Nikolay Yegorov told ITAR-TASS: "I think that everything now depends on Dudayev himself, on his perception of and reaction to the Russian president's address.

"I have became even more convinced that order should be restored in Chechnya because people here have been practically turned into slaves", he said. Nikolay Yegorov calls information that the population actively supports Dudayev "a bluff." According to Yegorov, meetings in support of the regime are being held only in Groznyy. On the whole, the population has adopted a wait-and-see attitude, the deputy prime minister noted.

In his opinion, "the main danger the people see is the fear that the federal bodies of power will not finish what they have begun. Dudayev would remain in place, and this could give start to cruel repressions against those who did not give him sufficient support and did not demonstrate loyalty to his regime. This is what I intend to say to the Security Council," Nikolay Yegorov stated before his departure to Moscow.

It is thought that Defense Minister Pavel Grachev; Interior Minister Viktor Yerin; and Sergey Stepashin, director of the Federal Counterintelligence Service, who are presently in the region, may also leave for Moscow together with Nikolay Yegorov.

Caucasian Confederation VP Explains Stance on Chechnya

MM1612094594 Moscow TRUD in Russian 16 Dec 94 p 1

[Interview with Zhantemir Gubachikov, vice president of the Confederation of Caucasian Peoples, by Olga Solomonova; place and date not given: "You have To Understand the Character of the Caucasians"—first paragraph is introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] An extraordinary congress of the Confederation of Caucasian Peoples [CCP] was held in Nalchik 11 December. After this the congress sent a delegation to Moscow. CCP Vice President Zhantemir Gubachikov answered your TRUD correspondent's questions.

[Solomonova] Zhantemir Mukhamedovich, your extraordinary congress was held because of the recent events in Chechnya, of course.

[Gubachikov] Of course. Representatives of the 12 indigenous peoples of the North Caucasus took part in the work of the congress, where we analyzed the situation in Chechnya and adopted a number of decisions. Our delegation's aim is to convey the CCP's position to the Russian authorities: Namely, that it is impossible to resolve any political problems in the Caucasus by fire and sword. War is already being waged in Chechnya and there are not only Russians and Chechens taking part in it but representatives of other Caucasian peoples too.

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That means that war could grip the whole North Caucasus tomorrow. Our principled position is that the Russian troops must be withdrawn from Chechnya and the sides must come to the negotiating table.

I believe that if anyone is trying to destroy the integrity of the Russian state today it is those who are inciting the Russian president to military actions in Chechnya. War brings people nothing but tragedy and bitterness.

[Solomonova] I agree, military actions do not bring out the good side in people. But in the past three years Dudayev has militarized practically the whole republic and the entire [adult] male population has been placed under arms. You say that the CCP is seeking peace. But it has been reported that volunteers are already being recruited in the North Caucasus republics to be sent to Chechnya. How does this tally with your declared peacemaking stance?

[Gubachikov] First, this is not recruitment [verbovka] but the drafting [prizyv] of volunteers. After all, the situation is complex: The blockade has closed around Groznyy, the talks are deadlocked, there is fierce fighting going on, and people are dying. I think that this draft is an act of desperation. But perhaps it will serve as a warning and a deterrent to military aggression?

[Solomonova] CCP President Yu. Shanibov [initial as published] stated a few days ago that if war begins the Caucasian peoples will adopt a decision on the republics' secession from the Russian Federation. Has that already been discussed?

[Gubachikov] No such decision has been made yet but this could happen if the war is not stopped. We consider that sending the troops into Chechnya was a serious political mistake. After all, it does not all depend on the leaders of the Caucasian republics. Even if some of them do defend the Russian President's position, this does not mean that their peoples will support them. They do not support them any longer. The more bloodshed there is, the harder it will be to stop it. Apart from Chechnya not one of our republics has raised the question of seceding from the Russian Federation so far. But the present Russian policy in the Chechen Republic inspires fear that similar actions might be undertaken against other republics.

[Solomonova] In your opinion, is General Dudayev really looking for talks? Is he capable of waiving his ambitions and accepting compromise?

[Gubachikov] In my view Dudayev has no aggressive intentions toward Russia. I am sure that he is aware that war brings calamity. But you have to understand the character of the Caucasian people. When combat actions are waged against these people you cannot make them stop and lay down their arms. Even Dudayev, I believe, is no longer capable of stopping the Chechen people by his will alone....

Well, let us suppose that war does grip Groznyy. What happens then? People will take to the mountains and begin a partisan war. Who needs that? The military actions must be stopped immediately, before it is too late, and all efforts must be directed toward resolving the Chechen problem by political means....

Federation Council's Abdulatipov Views Chechnya Crisis

MM1612093194 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Dec 94 p 1

[Interview with Ramazan Abdulatipov, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Federation Council, by Boris Slavin; place and date not given: "Postpone Disarmament Deadline for Three Days, Ramazan Abdulatipov Proposes"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Slavin] Ramazan Gadzhimuradovich, what is your forecast of events in Chechnya?

[Abdulatipov] The situation is dangerously explosive. I have asked the North Caucasus leaders to try to influence Dudayev, since his policy at present is disastrous for Chechnya. If he thinks about his people's well-being, he must not abandon talks and compromises.

[Slavin] What do you personally intend to do to prevent the military conflict from deepening?

[Abdulatipov] Together with the Federation Council chairman I have prepared an appeal to the president to postpone for three days the deadline for disarming military groupings and to mobilize the political factor, including talks.

[Slavin] Do you believe that Dagestan will support Chechnya and send volunteers there?

[Abdulatipov] I think not. But there is a Chechen community in Dagestan, and they might send volunteers to Dudayev. In my view Dagestan will never fight Russia. It is part of Russia.

[Slavin] Who, in your opinion, has an interest in widening the conflict in Chechnya?

[Abdulatipov] Those who armed Dudayev and who got rich on oil sales and financial speculation.

[Slavin] Maybe foreign countries are interested in widening the conflict in Chechnya?

[Abdulatipov] Unfortunately, a lot of foreign emissaries have visited the Caucasus, their activities were not monitored or studied by anyone, and dozens of trucks brought illegal freight from Turkey and Iran, but the state did nothing to stop those shipments.

[Slavin] Do you believe that the military operations in Chechnya will make Dudayev into a national hero, a kind of saint in the Caucasus?

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[Abdulatipov] This is possible, although I do not believe that the peoples of Dagestan will create a Dudayev personality cult.

U.S. Companies Ready To Invest Heavily in Urals Industry

MK1512120094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 15 Dec 94 p 2

[Report by Mikhail Lantsman in the "Cooperation" column: "U.S. Businessmen Are Attracted to the Urals. Entrepreneurs Are Ready To Trade Metropolitan Creature Comforts for Provincial Riches"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the run-up to the upcoming plenary session of the "Gore-Chernomyrdin" commission, the U.S. Board of Trade in Russia, jointly with the U.S.-CIS Trade and Economic Cooperation Council, the Sverdlovsk Oblast Administration, and the U.S. Consulate General in Yekaterinburg held a seminar "Urals Business Days." The seminar was attended by managers of more than 30 industrial enterprises from six regions of the Urals and western Siberia and also representatives of major U.S. companies operating on the Russian market.

U.S. Ambassador to Russia Thomas Pickering told a press conference 13 December that the Urals are the most attractive region to Western businesses. His opinion was supported by Sverdlovsk Oblast Governor Aleksey Strakhov, who noted that the Urals can become a springboard for foreign investment in Russia's economy. The concentration of industrial production in the region is four times higher than average in the country. A favorable investment climate is facilitated by sociopolitical stability in the region, the availability of high technology at defense enterprises, and the qualifications of employees at the finest world standards. According to Jack Segal, consul general in Yekaterinburg, the volumes of possible U.S. corporate investments in Urals enterprises are unlimited.

The Urals, opened to Western businesses only two years ago, were quickly appreciated by potential investors. This is borne out by the dynamics in the growth of joint ventures. The most attractive spheres for capital investment are enterprises in nonferrous metallurgy, machine building, construction materials, and defense conversion. Soon, experts predict, the Urals could become an arena of tough competition between U.S. and German businesses. Business activity by German entrepreneurs in the region was also promoted by former governor Eduard Rossel. Today Yekaterinburg has direct air communication with the main business centers in the FRG: Frankfurt, Stuttgart, and Dusseldorf.

The seminar coincided with the first anniversary of the activity by the U.S. Board of Trade in Russia. Board Executive Director Peter Sharow noted that the seminar marks the second stage in a general strategy: "Our businessmen have become too accustomed to the metropolitan comforts. We shall be encouraging their trips around the country."

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National Affairs

'Instability' Results From Political Conflict

WS1612094594 Kiev UKRAINIAN REPUBLICAN PARTY INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN in Ukrainian 13 Dec 94

[Article by Myroslav Levytskyy: "Something Is Brewing Again on the Political Olympus"—received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Text] We are currently witnessing not only economic instability in our country, but also the political instability on the Ukrainian Olympus of power. Its primary cause is the difference of opinions on what path Ukraine should select to proceed. The so-called concept presented in June by the legislative speaker and supported by the parliament's leftist majority substantially differs from the president's concept "On the Path of Radical Reforms." Personal relations also have quite a strong impact on relations among the branches of power. Words about the need for cooperation among all branches of power are very often at variance with deeds.

In the opinion of political observers, disagreement between the Ukrainian president and the Supreme Council leadership on the issue of power in Ukraine is the main reason for the present situation. Now, two concepts regarding the resolution of this problem have been prepared for examination: the president's draft "Law on Power" and the draft "Law on Bodies of Local Self-Government," proposed by parliament. The presidential concept is designed by its authors to put an end to Soviet power in Ukraine, while the goal of the concept crafted by parliament, in contrast, is to strengthen it. It is obvious that the left-wing forces in parliament, with Oleksandr Steshenko, head of the state-building commission, at the helm, do their best to "ram" through the Soviet concept of power. This, however, might prove an impossible task.

A vote revealed that this model of power is endorsed by about 140 deputies—much less support than the leftists had when waging their battle to restore the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. The decrease is a result of problems inside the factions, primarily the agrarian one.

Even though the president's draft has not yet been put to a vote, there are grounds to doubt whether it will garner the required number of votes. An opinion is held among democratic factions that Kuchma's concept of power reform, called the Minor Constitution, can be supported if no compromise changes are added to it.

Based on the above considerations, I asked the Ukrainian president how much compromise he could accept to secure passage of the "Law on Power." He has repeatedly said, both at news conferences and official meetings, about relations with parliament: "Boys, let us live peacefully with each other, because this is the only condition allowing us to make good on our pledges to the people, and allowing the world to respect us." The response, however, was harsh and unequivocal: "I am not going to compromise on this issue, because if I do, there will be no presidential power, too." Some time later, he [not further specified] commented on this response: "I want both the president and the executive branch to have leverage to make decisions serving the interests of the state. I want to appoint members of the government and be responsible for it. If the Supreme Council does not approve the 'Law on Power,' I will not know based on what laws I should work. I do not and I cannot accept a situation in which the Supreme Council is turned into a political club, instead of acting as a legislative body. It is bad when decisions momentous for the entire country are adopted without due consideration."

Another reason for growing disagreement between the Supreme Council and the president is the special approach of the corporate [dilova] majority and some right-wing radicals to the issue of privatization, including privatization of land. Recently, at an initiative coming from the bottom, a list of enterprises excluded from privatization plans has been drafted. The president said that the original list of enterprises which are not subject to privatization had been agreed with executive branch institutions. The entire military-industrial complex and bread industry, however, were added to the agreed-upon list.

As it turned out, a third of production capital in Ukraine belongs to the military-industrial complex. At present, the complex's enterprises are working at 10 percent capacity. The president believes that they should be privatized in the first place. Only several enterprises should continue to work to meet the needs of this complex.

The vote showed that the Supreme Council does not share this view. The president, however, warned the industrialist legislators: "If someone thinks that he will not be privatized and remain supported by the state, he is mistaken."

It is very hard for parliament's leftist deputies, including the leaders of the Supreme Council, to accept the presidential edict on land reform. They fell short of the votes needed to repeal it. So, the fight against the edict is continuing by means of attacks in the media.

Given the present situation, neither reform- and state-oriented deputies, nor their orthodox opponents, have enough votes to secure passage of their decisions. The stalemate can be explained by the notorious absence of some deputies at the legislative sessions. Another reason is purely psychological in nature—some deputies look back to the Supreme Council's leadership when making their decisions.

This is why an idea is increasingly voiced in legislative circles that the Supreme Council should be reformed or even dissolved. The first step in reforming parliament would be removal of the Moroz- Tkachenko duet from Tarashcha [town in central Ukraine]. Six legislative factions have virtually agreed on the impeachment of the parliament's leadership: the "Statehood," "Unity," Interregional Deputies' Group, Rukh, "Reforms," and "Center" factions, which make up the majority in parliament. Such sentiments are no secret to the speaker and his first deputy. Their good mood, however, can be

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explained by the fact that the deputies decided to hold off on the issue of a leadership change until it is absolutely clear that new leaders can be elected.

Pretty tough haggling is now under way over the candidacy of a new speaker. The presidential administration, the deputies say, plays an important role in this haggling. An official from the president's entourage has carelessly bragged about this in a close but not so tight circle. Endorsed at 11 Bankivska Street [presidential office], an historian from Kharkov, Oleksandr Karpov, has been proposed for the post. To secure the support of democrats, Oleksandr Lavrynovych will be proposed for the position of first deputy.

Still, Karpov's candidacy is unacceptable to most of parliament. This is why [former Supreme Council Speaker] Ivan Plyushch, Oleksandr Lavrynovych, and many others were also named as possible nominees for Supreme Council chairman.

Impeachment of leaders is a very complex problem for responsible politicians. On the one hand, Oleksandr Moroz and Tkachenko, in the words of democratic and reform-minded factions, permanently violate parliament's regulations and Ukrainian law. On the other hand, the failure to elect a new speaker (the outcome sought by certain forces) can prompt dissolution of the Supreme Council as an inept institution, paving the way for a dictatorship of the presidential branch of power and tension in society.

Completely opposite opinions can also be heard, however, contending that this scenario of domestic developments can eventually bring order to the country. There are quite a few facts raising doubts about such reasoning. Concerns are voiced in political circles about contradictory information coming from the president's entourage. In an interview on Ukrainian national television, former President Leonid Kravchuk said that in his opinion, the incumbent president sometimes make decisions to suit his environment. This means that the man is losing power.

Those statements can probably explain why President Kuchma has recently been so irritated by former President Kravchuk. Answers given by the present president to journalists at news conferences provide the impression that people at 11 Bankivska Street would like modern Ukrainian history to begin from 11 July 1994, instead of 24 August 1991. At a news conference on 7 December, President Kuchma passionately stated: "I am so glad that Kravchuk is not in Clinton's place. Clinton is in his place, Kravchuk is in his, and I am in mine." All this comes after the change-of-power ceremony on 19 July, when both presidents agreed that the incumbent will take advantage of experience acquired by the first president and will consult with him. As we can see, he does not... Is it his own will or that of his environment? So far, this question remains unanswered.

The cited facts indicate that pushing the Ukrainian parliament out of the game would be a fatal mistake. After all, no one can be sure where the impeachment process would stop. Would it not also affect those who initiated it? This is why the traditional Ukrainian question of "What next?" is again left unanswered.

With the current situation remaining unchanged, the political show and the mocking of the law will continue. Should parliament be dissolved, this will pave the way for a dictatorship, and no one can be sure if it is not going to be an imported one! Particularly since Ukraine's state budget will not sustain another election. Society, too, is weary of political games.

So, there is a third option—a prompt consolidation of national-democratic and reform-oriented forces, both within and outside parliament. Unfortunately, many place egoism above patriotism, which is the perennial drama of Ukraine.

Oblast Rally Demands Higher Living Standards

LD1512211394 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The government and the Supreme Council of Ukraine must take more specific actions to improve the population's living standards. In so doing they must heed to the proposals contained in trade unions' demands. A resolution of such a content was adopted at a rally held in the central square of Kremenchug, Poltava oblast. It gathered almost 10,000 representatives of various industries. The action was headed by local trade union committees. Telegrams in support of the rally participants were received from Vinnitsa, Zaporozhye, Dnepropetrovsk, Krivoy Rog, Ternopol and from a number of people's deputies of Ukraine.

Kuchma Abolishes Bond-Issuing Credit Fund

LD1512164494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1512 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Dec 15 (Interfax-Ukraine)—President Leonid Kuchma has issued a decree to abolish the Ukrainian Credit Fund, a body set up earlier to issue state commodity bonds for sale in the world stock market.

The decree also orders stopping the issue and distribution of the Fund's first series of bonds and gives the Prosecutor General's Office, Finance Ministry, National Bank and Security Service two weeks to check whether the Fund's creation and activities have been fully in line with the law.

The professed aim of the decree is to put in order procedures for the attraction and use of foreign investment and improve financial policy mechanisms.

The Credit Fund, set up by former president Leonid Kravchuk, was to issue 400 bonds, each worth $25 million, to be backed by state property.

Last month some members of parliament said the bonds had already been come out gone into the world market

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and that some had even been sold. On Thursday parliament appointed a commission to check those assertions.

More on Decree

LD1512210894 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma has issued a decree disbanding the Ukrainian Credit Fund and has ordered the suspension of the issuing and placing of the first tranche of government commodity bonds secured on Ukraine's material resources.

Ukraine's Procuracy-General, Finance Ministry, National Bank, and Security Service were instructed within two weeks to verify compliance with legislative requirements in setting up and operating the Ukrainian Credit Fund.

Liquidates Credit Fund

LD1612110394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1900 GMT 16 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Nekrasova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lvov December 16 TASS—Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma has signed a decree liquidating, as of today, the Ukrainian credit fund created by his predecessor Leonid Kravchuk last spring. The decree also suspends the issue and placement of the first series of the state commodity bonds secured by Ukraine's material resources. The issue was mandated by Leonid Kravchuk.

Leonid Kuchma's move came after a row in the parliament on Thursday. According to Igor Kvyatkovskiy, chairman of the subcommission for securities, to foreign citizens were detained in London carrying Ukrainian bonds worth several hundreds of millions of dollars. This was seen as evidence that the fears voiced in the present parliament were not groundless. Some deputies said Ukraine and its 52 million citizens with all their property might find themselves "mortgaged" in a foreign bank. The total worth of the bonds to be issued would reach 10 billion U.S. dollars.

The plan for the issue of bonds to attract foreign capital had been drawn up by the Kravchuk team as early April 7, 1994. Its implementation was entrusted to a previously unknown structure "Ukrainian credit fund" which had no banking functions. The national bank, the Finance Ministry and the state property fund which were immediately responsible for securities found themselves on the sidelines.

It became clear at the current parliament session that all the bonds with a total value of 10 billion dollars had been sold and all the resources raised by the sale were accumulated on a correspondent account of Prominvestbank in a financial institution in Zurich.

Leonid Kuchma's decree empowers the general cooperators' office, the Finance Ministry, the national bank and the security service to investigate whether the creation and operations of Ukrainian credit fund were in compliance with Ukraine's legislation.

For its part, the parliament set up a provisional commission to look into the circumstances related to the issue of commodity and property bonds secured by Ukraine's material resources.

Yoffe Views Privatization, Division of Power

WS1512154094 Kiev KYYIVSKA PRAVDA in Ukrainian 9 Dec 94 p 1

[Interview with People's Deputy Yuliy Yoffe by Yu. Lystopad; place and date not given: "Yuliy Yoffe: 'My Impression Is Bitter So Far'"]

[FBIS Translated Text]**How are parliamentarians themselves assessing the increasing misunderstandings between the branches of power and their own work? People's Deputy Yuliy Yoffe, former deputy prime minister in Leonid Kuchma's government, responds to our questions.**

[Lystopad] An open sluggishness in all directions concerning privatization can be observed in parliament. Only the parliament of a country, in which the people are provided with everything and production increases, could work in such a way. Delays in privatization are negative, all the more so since reforms initiated by the presidential team have no basis without privatization...

[Yoffe] I also consider myself a member of the presidential team; I am a supernumerary presidential adviser for issues of the fuel and power industry, and I support everything the president is doing, including what relates to privatization. The NEZAVISIMOST newspaper is currently publishing chapters from my book "One-on-one Against the System," in which I wrote how privatization had been proceeding previously. This was pumping capital among certain groupings having influence on the authorities. What Leonid Kuchma and his team are currently going to do is something completely different. This can be seen in their first steps. As we all know, vouchers have recently been brought to Ukraine, instead of mythical privatization accounts in savings banks, the essence of which the people apparently did not understand.

The Supreme Council should now define the corridor through which privatization will proceed. In my opinion, there should be the following guidelines: First, one must select enterprises that are not subject to privatization, and will remain state property. Citizens should have equal possibilities. Many people have doubts about privileges for company staffs. However, one must think positively here, in order not to harm anybody.

I will provide an example. Representatives of the Azov steamship company have recently visited our Commission for Issues of the Fuel And Power Industry. They leased the company, and, as people once used to say, made communism in a small village. Still, all indicators have fallen. They now want to buy the steamship company for a miserable price, even though those steamers should be priced according to international tariffs.

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[Lystopad] In parliament, there are currently two very important documents concerning one topic—the draft bill on power submitted by the president and the draft legislation on local councils and self-government drafted by deputies. How do you assess them?

[Yoffe] In my opinion, the second draft resembles a coup d'etat. It creates a chain of power vertical to the Supreme Council in the regions. I would particularly like to draw your attention to the following point. It envisions giving local councils the right to dismiss company managers regardless of the form of ownership. This is not even a thing of the past. This is former military communism. The draft thus bears all signs of a coup, which I am going to state during a debate on it. Of course, it strongly contradicts the president's draft law on power, which precisely defines a division of powers between the branches of power. This draft does not include this.

[Lystopad] As everyone knows, the parliament chairman sent a letter to the president, reproaching him because the government and the presidential team are not drafting laws for reforms. In response, the president noted that this is the work of the Supreme Council, as a legislative body. Did the speaker not raise this issue in such a manner, because he is not convinced that parliament is able to draft laws for the president's radical program?

[Yoffe] Although I have been working in parliament for as little as two months, because I was elected later, I will frankly say that so far I have a bitter impression of our work.

[Lystopad] What is actually hampering the construction of an oil terminal in Odessa? After all, you were deputy prime minister for issues of the fuel and power industry, and you cannot but know what remains in the shadows?

[Yoffe] I actually know the story very well, and I will draw readers' attention to the following point. An oil harbor is currently operating in Odessa, through which Russia has already exported 5 million tonnes of oil this year, and this figure will climb to 8 million by the end of the year. There is nothing wrong with pumping its oil through our harbor. But if ecologists cry that one must not build the Odessa terminal, for it will pollute the environment, let them look at the harbor, at which there is no environmental safety, and which is located in the center of Odessa. We planned to build a terminal such as those in Florida, which is, as everybody knows, a recreational area.

Russia's largest production of oil amounted to 620 million tonnes per year. It is able to refine 225 million tonnes of oil and needs approximately the same amount. In 1993 it produced 390 million tonnes, and is expected to extract 300 tonnes this year. I do not think that Ukraine will get anything if it extracts 250 million tonnes next year. We thus must look ahead. I cannot even understand what forces hinder the construction of the terminal. Nevertheless, it is a matter of fact that this is a well-considered action. Far-reaching perspectives are looming here, and there is no doubt that a certain political plot is standing behind this, and not simply environmental concerns.

Ministers Explore Energy Price Increases

LD1512183194 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1630 GMT 15 Dec 94

[By UNIAN correspondent Svitlana Korotych]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev—Deputy Economic Minister Viktor Kalnyk told UNIAN toady that the Cabinet of Ministers is looking at ways of raising retail prices for natural gas and electricity. The proposals submitted consist of changes in the approaches toward setting gas prices, the two stages of which are, as follows: First, account will be taken not only of gas prices but also of its transit cost; Second; expenditure on the extraction of Ukrainian gas will be taken into consideration.

Kalnyk said gas for the Industry and Machine Building Industry enterprises would be priced at $66 per 1,000 cubic meters, inclusive of the cost of its transit across Ukraine. Other enterprises will buy gas at a price of $56, with gas prices for the population so far undergoing no changes.

Higher gas prices will cause a rise in the cost of electricity, which, in particular, will grow by 40 percent when purchased by industrial enterprises. It is likely tariffs on electricity for the population will also go up in the first quarter of 1995. This is due to the fact that, because of the price concessions for the population at present, the financial burden in the payment for electricity is being borne by industry. "Electricity prices for industry in some regions are 50 percent higher than world prices, which results in its lower competitiveness," Kalnyk added.

Official Opposes Foreign Investment Bill

LD1512152294 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1030 GMT 15 Dec 94

[By UNIAN correspondent Tamara Kutsay]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev [No dateline as received]—"We may be left without foreign investments if the Supreme Council of Ukraine votes in favor of the law on foreign investments drafted by the Ukrainian Economics Ministry," Ihor Podolyev, first deputy minister of external economic relations said at a conference of Ukraine's exporters.

According to him, two draft laws are available today, one of which has been prepared by the Economics Ministry and another one by the External Economic Relations Ministry. The first one provides for the introduction of certain amendments to the current decree "On the treatment of foreign investments" proceeding from the experience of Russia, where preferential treatment of foreign investments was cancelled. "As a result of this, Russia failed to receive $2.5-3 billion. The same thing may happen to Ukraine if parliament approves this draft," Ihor Podolyev pointed out.

Ihor Podolyev said that the document drafted by the External Economic Relations Ministry provides for the rescinder of the decree "On the treatment of foreign

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investments" currently in force and reinstatement of the law on foreign investments adopted in March 1992. In Ihor Podolyev's opinion, it was "the best law of its kind not only in CIS but in eastern Europe." "Naturally, the draft provides for amendments to the law that existed until now, but preferential treatment of foreign investors is retained, as a whole," he said.

Dutch Agree To Provide Economic Assistance

WS1612103594 Kiev KHRESHCHATYK in Ukrainian 13 Dec 94 p 1

[Report attributed to HARYACHA LINIYA: "The Netherlands Supports Ukrainian Reforms"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The program of Leonid Kuchma's stay in Budapest [for the CSCE summit] was intense. It included bilateral meetings with the presidents and prime ministers of various foreign states. In addition, the Ukrainian president met with Dutch Prime Minister Wim Kok on 6 December.

During the talks, the sides discussed how 8 million guilders in technical assistance—granted by the Netherlands to Ukraine in 1994—have been spent. The Dutch Government adopted a decision to increase the amount of assistance in 1995 to 12 million guilders, of which 4 million guilders will go to support mutual cooperation in the conversion sector. Mr. Wim Kok raised the issue of international cooperation in the sector of Ukrainian power engineering.

HARYACHA LINIYA has requested that the Dutch Embassy draft a report covering bilateral cooperation between the two states. As we learned, representatives of the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs and the Ukrainian Agency of International Cooperation and Investments met in Kiev recently to discuss financial assistance from the Netherlands. This assistance will support Ukraine's transition to a market economy. The Dutch delegation supported the program of profound reforms launched by President Kuchma and his government, on the basis of which an agreement with the IMF was signed.

Dutch projects will be developed and implemented in the agricultural sector, the conversion sector, power engineering, and environmental protection sectors of Ukraine.

The National Bank of Netherlands will grant a $7.93-million loan to our state to enable Ukraine to purchase 10,907 shares—a maximum share—in the National Bank of Netherlands. The Dutch Government will grant $500,000 to establish a center for coordinating Ukraine's relations with international financial organizations. To encourage the Ukrainian Government in implementing economic reforms, the Netherlands supported its draft program to restructure the institutes of management in Ukraine.

Parliament Creates Media Council

LD1512153794 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1315 GMT 15 Dec 94

[By UNIAN correspondent Svitlana Dorosh; all names and titles as received]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, [No dateline as received]—Parliament approved on 14 December a resolution on Ukraine's National Council for Issues of Television and Radio Broadcasting and confirmed its composition.

The functions of the national council are to ensure that TV and radio companies abide by the legislation and the terms of the license, issue licenses on a competitive basis, and supervise the use of frequencies. The national council will also coordinate the tariffs used by the brodcasting channels and will determine the procedure for applying them.

In the event of violations of the legislation or a breach of the licensing terms, the national council will be entitled to suspend or withdraw the licenses.

Four candidacies submitted by the president and the parliament chairman were included in the national council. The parliament chairman's candidates were: Ivan Mashchenko, prorector of the Ukrainian institute for improving the qualifications of TV and radio workers; Viktor Petrenko, director general Dnepropetrovsk TV and radio company; Viktor Ponedilko, chairman of the Supreme Council Commission for Issues of the Legislative Provision for the Freedom of Expression and Mass Media: Oleh Yaremchuk, head of the main production and technical directorate of the State TV and Radio Company.

The candidates proposed by the president were: Oleksandr Kochetkov, deputy head of the president's press service; Vyacheslav Kudin, professor of the Institute of Journalism's faculty of international journalism; Oleksandr Lyakhov, dean of the faculty of radio communications, radio broadcasting and television of the Ukrainian State Academy name after O. Popov; Mykola Slobodyan prorector of the Karpenko-Karyy Kiev State Institute of Theatrical Arts.

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Belarus

U.S. Grants $25 Million for IMF Program

WS1612094894 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0400 GMT 16 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] According to the press service of the Belarusian Cabinet of Ministers, the U.S. Government has adopted a resolution to spend $25 million as humanitarian assistance to the Republic of Belarus in the form of supplies of foodstuffs and pharmaceutics on a nonpayment basis. This was announced by a U.S. administration representative at a meeting of donor countries in Washington.

Belarusian Prime Minister Mikhail Chyhir was told by the U.S. Ambassador to Belarus Kenneth Yalowitz that this action is a U.S. initiative intended to relieve for Belarus the consequences of the implementation of an economic program agreed with the IMF.

IMF, World Bank Talks Continue

WS1612094994 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0800 GMT 16 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A government delegation headed by Belarusian Deputy Prime Minister Mikhail Myasnikovich is staying in Washington to complete talks with the IMF, the World Bank, and creditor countries about the issues of financing the deficit in the payment balance.

The head of the Belarusian delegation met with the IMF leadership and enlisted its support. The IMF approved a proposed plan for the sharp decrease of the inflation rate and improvement of the Republic's economy. Belarus has settled its debts with Germany and the European Union, as well as reached an agreement on the regulation of debt payments to Russia.

The IMF Board of Executive Directors will hold a session on 21 December, at which a question of assistance to Belarus will be resolved. For the time being, a possibility is considered for allotting $254 million in stand-by credit and $102 million in hard currency credit.

Lukashenka Signs Asylum Rights Edict

WS1612104394 Minsk BELAPAN in English 1600 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President of Belarus Alyaksandr Lukashenka has issued a decree confirming regulations on the procedure of examining matters concerning the granting of asylum to foreign citizens and persons without citizenship. The regulations containing 16 points stipulate the procedure of granting asylum in accordance with the Constitution of Belarus and the Law "On Legal Status of Foreign Citizens and Persons Without Citizenship in the Republic of Belarus". The regulations, in particular, read that asylum is granted to the people who have to leave the country of permanent residence owing to the force of persecution for political, religious convictions, or for nationality.

Lukashenka Favors Tripartite Economic Unity

WS1612104994 Minsk BELAPAN in English 1600 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President of the Republic of Belarus Alyaksandr Lukashenka voiced resolutely in favor of unification of the economies of Belarus, Russia and the Ukraine, and approved the steps towards this, which were made by the participants of a meeting of industrialists of Belarus, Russia and Ukraine the other day in Minsk, Arkadiy Volskiy, chairman-coordinator of the Council of the International Congress of Industrialists and Enterprises, president of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs informed the press. The leaders of the national organizations of industrialists of the three Slavic countries acquainted the Belarusian president with the agreements that had been reached at the meeting: on the most-favored regime for the countries and on the establishment of transnational companies and industrial- financial groups common for the countries, as well as a statement for the heads of states, governments and parliaments, which contained a call for creating a real alliance of the economies of Belarus, Russia and Ukraine with some subsequent steps in the political field. Mr. Volskiy stressed that since the very beginning of their cooperation the industrialists and enterprises of the three countries called upon their colleagues in Kazakhstan to back up the cooperation on a mutually beneficial basis.

Answering a question on the prospects of integration, Mr. Volskiy said that it was inevitable. The same is as regards the other CIS member-states. "We had been constructed as one large factory. We have so many specialized enterprises that it is absurd to develop these productions in every newly independent state, and it requires a lot of money that both Belarus, Ukraine and Russia lack." But having started establishing financial-industrial groups and transnational companies in practice without the participation of the governments the industrialists came across the impossibility to solve concrete problems because of the difference in the national legislations. These problems can be solved within the framework of regulation of interstate relations in the political and legal fields. According to Arkadiy Volskiy, Alyaksandr Lukashenka expressed his willingness to support the establishment of first transnational companies by means of a presidential decree authorizing the unification of the values of basic funds of the enterprises under amalgamation into transnational companies, corporations, groups.

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Kazakhstan

Parliament Refuses To Discuss Changes To Constitution

LD1512174494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1512 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Almaty, December 15, (INTERFAX)—Kazakhstan's parliament refused to discuss President Nursultan Nazarbayev's proposal to make amendments to the republic's Constitution.

On Thursday [15 December] the president urged deputies to discuss certain aspects of a constitutional reform concerning private property of land, two official languages, the need to carry out a reform in legislation and the character of statehood. Under its Constitution Kazakhstan is a unitary state of the self-ruled Kazakh nation, which ensures equal rights for all its citizens.

Some political parties and movements in the republic demand that the notion of Kazakh nation be cancelled, since it infringes on the rights of the non-indigenous peoples.

Addressing the parliament, Nazarbayev pointed out that he cannot bypass the acute problems which worry Kazakh society and influence the promotion of reforms.

Deputies voted for each proposal separately. As a result only one proposal - on the need to carry out a reform in legislation - received a majority of votes. 101 deputies voted for it, and 26 against.

The issue of private property received only 66 votes, with 56 against. The issue of two official languages garnered 59 votes, with 66 against. The issue of statehood received 52 votes, with 74 against. On the whole 135 deputies attended the session; 173 are on the list.

After the voting Nazarbayev suggested that the president, the prime minister, parliament spokesmen and the representatives of political parties and public movements should "sit down at the negotiating table" and sign a moratorium to refrain from discussing these issues in the near future for the sake of preventing Kazakhstan from becoming divided ethnically and otherwise.

Parliament Should Hasten Market Reform Laws

LD1512230594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2049 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Almaty, Dec 15 (Interfax)—The Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev has urged parliament to speed up the adoption of laws guaranteeing market-oriented reforms.

He said in parliament Thursday [15 December] that recently the cabinet has been taking resolute steps to reform the economy. "The reforms have gone ahead, life itself is pushing them forward," the president remarked. However, in his opinion the legal foundation of reforms badly lags behind the speed of change and a number of laws contradict reality. "Reforms have become dynamic and the laws that seemed progressive yesterday are becoming an obstacle," Nazarbayev said.

The head of state predicted that 1995 would become a turning point for the economy, the last year of the crisis. He thinks parliament must pass such pressing legislation as the civic code, the laws on bankruptcy, mortgage, foreign investments as well as amendments to tax legislation by the end of 1994. Besides, the agreement on the loans from the IMF and other international financial organizations must be ratified.

The president suggested that parliament revise its working rules and have four or five plenary sessions a week instead of two. "The work should be done fast before the end of the year," he stressed.

By a 113 to 21 majority the parliament decided to hold seven additional plenary sessions and discuss the listed draft laws.

Tajikistan

Rakhmanov at Islamic Conference in Morocco

Meets With Afghan President

LD1512161294 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Uzbek 1300 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Conference is taking place in the capital of Morocco, Casablanca. A Tajik Government delegation led by the Tajikistan President Emomali Rakhmanov is also taking part in it.

Apart from discussing the agenda, the participants of the conference are meeting each other. Rakhmanov met Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani. During their conversation they touched on issues that interest both sides. During the talk they discussed the security of the Tajik-Afghan border, border violations by the armed Tajik opposition, the prevention of shooting in border districts, and relations between the two countries. Rakhmanov talked with concern about the violation of the Tehran cease-fire agreement by the Tajik rebels. He also emphasized that there were some Afghan citizens among them and that this angered the Tajik Government. He asked the Afghan President for help in taking measures to prevent armed provocations.

The same day Rakhmanov met Turkish President Suleyman Demirel and talked to him about expanding economic relations between the two countries.

Addresses Forum, Meets Mubarak

LD1612093094 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 0500 GMT 16 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Islamic conference ended its work in Morocco yesterday. On the final day the Tajik

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President Emomali Rakhmanov made a speech. In it Rakhmanov dwelt on the current situation in Tajikistan and our cooperation with foreign countries.

He also met with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak yesterday.

The participants in the Islamic conference, in which representatives from more than 52 countries took part, adopted a declation on former Yugoslavia.

UNHCR Sets Up New Office in Konduz for Refugees

LD1612190194 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 0500 GMT 16 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] After two years of negotiations with officials in the Konduz Province of Afghanistan, the United Nations High Commission on Refugees [UNHCR] has opened a headquarters office in the city of Konduz. The information department of the Tajik Foreign Ministry told Khovar news agency that several thousand Tajik refugees are living in this province of Afghanistan. The opening of this headquarters will promote a solution to all the problems surrounding a timely return of the Tajik refugees currently in Kunduz and Tahar Provinces to their homeland.

Official Calls Recent Opposition Acts 'Terrorism'

LD1512123494 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Russian 0400 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Abdulmajid Dostiyev, first deputy chairman of the Tajik Supreme Council, held a meeting yesterday at the Tajik Supreme Council with the heads of the diplomatic missions and the observer mission of the United Nations, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, and other international organizations that are accredited in Tajikistan.

Abdulmajid Dostiyev told diplomats about the events that took place in the Darvoz district on 11 December. He noted that the Tajik Government is strictly observing the agreements signed in Tehran and reaffirmed in Islamabad at the inter-Tajik talks. The UN military observers in Tajikistan can confirm this.

However, the actions of the irreconcilable armed opposition are aimed at undermining the agreement and the forthcoming fourth round of inter-Tajik talks.

There is never a day when the opposition does not carry out provocations on the border or within the republic. On the very first day the cease-fire and cessation of other hostilities on the Tajik-Afghan border and within the country went into effect, it was violated by the armed opposition. On that day, 20 October, Munavvarsho Nazriyev, deputy chairman of the Tajik Council of Ministers, was murdered in Garm.

The ambush mounted against a column of Russian border troops in Darvoz district on 11 December, as a result of which one border guard was killed and seven were injured, and the subsequent kidnapping of 12 civilian residents and their abduction across the border, are nothing other than acts of terrorism and vandalism.

In my opinion this is the result of our constant concessions, and of the not entirely objective assessments of the armed opposition's operations made by the international organizations who mediated in the inter-Tajik talks and are continuing their mediating mission in the shape of the UN military observers in Tajikistan, Dostiyev said. We have to call a spade a spade, Dostiyev said. If this is terrorism, that is what we should say—that the opposition is violating the inter-Tajik agreement by continuing terror in Tajikistan.

If the government has failed to implement any point in the agreement, that infringement should be pointed out so that the international public knows who is more to blame for the continuation of the inter-Tajik confrontation.

A note by the Tajik Foreign Ministry about the opposition's bandit attack on the column of vehicles of the Russian border troops in Darvoz district on 11 December was also made public.

Turkmenistan

Japanese Oil Company Interested in Local Oil Exploration

LD1512125894 Ashgabat Radio Ashgabat Network in Russian 0200 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Itochu Petroleum shows interest in the oil in the southern part of the Caspian Sea.

Itochu Petroleum Company of Japan expressed its interest in cooperation with Turkmenistan in exploring the country's oil beds. The company's working group arrived in Ashgabat to discuss the possibility of future long-term cooperation. The Japanese businessmen held talks with leaders of the Ministries of Oil and Gas, Foreign Economic Relations, Economy and Finance.

The possibility of the Japanese company's participation in exploring the oil beds in the southern part of the Caspian Sea, which has a great future for many foreign companies, was the main topic of the discussions. The Japanese specialists showed special interest in carrying out a geological and seismic survey in this area at the first phase of their work. In order to familiarize themselves with the area, the guests left for Cheleken and Ekerem. They will continue their talks later at the Ministry of Oil and Gas.

The Turkmen side is studying various aspects of future cooperation including conditions of setting up a joint enterprise. Itochu Petroleum is a part of the Intochu Corporation. It is also a member of the Japanese-Turkmen committee for economic cooperation. At the first meeting of the committee held in Sofia in October

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this year, representatives of Turkmenistan proposed that the Japanese firm take part in the implementation of many of the projects including the gas and oil complex.

The Japanese businessmen, taking into consideration the stable political situation in Turkmenistan and useful conditions provided for investments, believe that the cooperation with Turkmenistan has a great future. To coordinate the cooperation, a mission of the Itochu Corporation has been established in Ashgabat.

Democratic Party Holds Plenary Meeting

LD1612095494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0922 GMT 16 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Lukin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ashgabad [Ashgabat] December 16 TASS—Turkmenistan's only political party has convened a plenary session on Friday [16 December] to mark the third anniversary of its existence.

The gathering was addressed by President Saparmurad Niyazov who is the Democratic Party's chairman.

The president stressed that one of the main aims of the party is to pool the efforts of citizens to help realise the idea of political and economic independence of Turkmenistan and create a free, secular, democratic society.

The party drafted the three-year programme of the republic's social and economic development, a new educational programme and plans for economic reforms in agriculture and industry.

As a result of last Sunday's elections to the Majlis (legislature), the Democratic Party has firm positions in the parliament. Forty-five of the parliament's fifty members are candidates of the Democratic Party.

Uzbekistan

Supreme Council Chairman on Opposition, Islam, CIS

LD1512162994 Tashkent NARODNOYE SLOVO in Russian 14 Dec 94 p1

[Excerpts from a speech by Erkin Khalilov, acting chairman of the Uzbek Supreme Council, at a Constitution Day meeting held on 7 December; place not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Dear friends! Ladies and gentlemen!

To begin with, allow me to congratulate you on this festival of importance to the history of our independent state, the Constitution Day of Uzbekistan. Constitution Day has rightfully assumed a special place among our other festive dates and has become a worthy national holiday, indeed. [passage omitted]

The basic law is the foundation, the legal basis for the independence of our state. Our motherland's independence should be sacred to every one of its citizen, and any encroachment on its freedom should be regarded as an encroachment on the rights and freedoms of our citizens.

After the disintegration of the Soviet Union, some persons who had lost control of the reins of power and real influence on the former union republics resorted to various refined methods to get back what they had lost. What have they not done to achieve their goals, without shrinking from any means?

Who is engaged in instigation, stirring up ethnic strife, organizing confrontation, and dividing the unified state into the groupings? Who leads these actions? Who will profit from it? The people who have to drink from this bitter cup? No. Perhaps the mothers who mourn their sons who fall victim to these intrigues? No. The peasants working in the fields from morning till night? No, they do not need this! It is those who feel nostalgia for the old days who need it.

And now political figures have appeared who are implanting the idea of creating a Eurasian Union. It is not for nothing that I direct your attention to this essentially political game.

Everyone understands what objects are being pursued here. Once again it is the struggle for power, the revival of the old leadership methods, centralized government, unified citizenship, and so on. In other words, a return to a single form of statehood similar to the former Soviet Union—true, in somewhat updated form.

Furthermore, some short-sighted politicians do not think about the destiny of the state and the peoples who have chosen their own path of development and exploit the difficulties relating to the transition period as they try to sow doubt in the souls of the people and to awaken remembrance of the "communist paradise." But the people cannot be deceived. They remember the bitter communist experience when we nearly forgot our mother tongue and found ourselves on the edge of turning into "mankurts" ["zombies"], regarding our great ancestor Timur virtually as an enemy of the people! We have not forgotten that. We must once again remind all those who connect great hopes with these ideas that there will be no return to the past.

We must assess correctly the situation that has arisen in the world. People's outlook has changed sharply in the last two or three years. Today everybody understands that any attempt to turn the wheel of history backward is useless. It can bring only to unforeseen negative consequences.

Nothing will make people who gained a sense of freedom and found their own statehood give up their independence.

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As a member of the Commonwealth of Independent States, Uzbekistan is developing equal and mutually beneficial relationships. So we view the Commonwealth option as the most acceptable one. Prophecies that it would disintegrate have proven to be groundless. At any rate, we believe that nothing of the kind will happen in the near future.

It is clear from history that states have employed various kinds of community in their common interest. These interests include the proximity of their territories, the economic or political situation, and even the favor that heads of states show each other.

Today the Commonwealth of Independent States, which is an objective reality, is growing stronger and developing.

The CIS framework's preservation of open borders, freedom of movement, and free flow of information serve as a precondition for guaranteeing civil and inter-ethnic accord in the republic and as an important factor for sociopolitical stability. We view it with great hope and are sure it will ultimately secure civil inter-ethnic accord.

To our minds, there is no more important task today than sociopolitical stability. Any action directed toward upsetting stability is tantamount to a crime. The tragic events in Nagorno-Karabakh, Moldova, Georgia, Tajikistan, and the Chechen Republic remind us of this.

In this context I would like to dwell upon one more issue. Lately some material has been appearing in the foreign media portraying the situation in Uzbekistan in a biased manner. The fact that the authors of these broadcasts and articles are the persons who have had to leave their motherland for one reason or other is also astonishing. Meanwhile, it seems like only yesterday that Uzbekistan was still part of the USSR and could not decide any question without a decree from the center; that our compatriots could not come to their native land even as guests because of the center refused this, and that monuments to Lenin, Kuybyshev, and Frunze towered over squares and public gardens in place of monuments to the best representatives of Uzbek history, Navoi and Ulugbek; did they not grieve for this reason and mourn their native Uzbekistan and its independence? Why do they now launch attacks on sovereign Uzbekistan? Have they no notion of motherland, native land, or compatriots?

At all times and in all countries there have been and continue to be differing political views and ideas that have been made a reality through the activities of political parties, by electing a parliament and president for the country. The people elect those whom they consider best and most worthy. That was how it was here, too: people elected their president and adopted their own constitution. Why are political figures whose outlooks have not won the support of the people and who now find themselves abroad started casting aspersions on the republic and its people? You know that everyone, including foreign observers, will bear witness to the fact that our people have chosen the path of independence on the basis of democratic and free elections and are advancing along it confidently. [passage omitted]

The constitution of Uzbekistan creates legal conditions and broad opportunities for the activities of political parties and public associations of citizens. We must regard these principles and provisions as the most important basis for the real democracy.

There are no notions such as communist ideology, class, or the one-party state in our basic law. The idea that people are nature's crowning glory takes a central place in the constitution. The basic law reflects a fair legal resolution of the relationship between citizen, society, and state.

Citizen and state are organically bound together by their rights and obligations. This is an integral feature of the constitutional state.

It is laid down in the basic law that public life develops on the basis of political institutions, diversity of ideologies, and pluralism of opinions and that no ideology can be established as the state ideology.

The constitution of Uzbekistan pays special attention to freedom of thought, conscience, and religious belief. This approach, which is firmly established in the republic, conforms to the age-old moral traditions of our people. The state does not interfere in the personal convictions and religious faith of its citizens. This common human principle prevents the state from being given a religious character. Giving state status to religion would contradict the sacred foundations of religion and the tenets of the shariat [Islamic law] and would give rise to the danger that the state might interfere in the moral essence of religion. It is similarly inadmissible for religion to interfere in the affairs of the state. Attitude to religion is the private affair of every citizen, and compulsion in this matter is inadmissible. [passage omitted]

Karimov Commends IMF Program, Notes Economic Gains

LD1512224894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2231 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tashkent, Dec 15 (Interfax)—The World Bank has voiced readiness to help Uzbekistan fund concrete economic projects and strengthen its national currency.

The head of the World Bank's department for Russia and Central Asia, Yucon Khuang, at a meeting with Uzbek President Islam Karimov in Tashkent, commended today's economic reforms in the former Soviet republic.

According to the World Bank, Uzbekistan has managed to avert a sharp decline in its output and national

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income. While on average production in the Commonwealth of Independent States in 1990-93 plummeted by 40.9 percent, Uzbekistan's figure is only 14.4 percent.

As early as the beginning of 1995, the Bank may give Uzbekistan a loan of $150 million to $180 million for projects to restructure its economy and is simultaneously going to consider six or seven investment schemes for the Central Asian republic for the next three years, worth a total of $400 million to $500 million.

Four oil and gas projects have been worked out in the Uzbekistan. One of them is to develop the Bukhara Region's Kodumalak oil and gas field to eliminate the republic's dependence on oil imports by 1996. The others are to build a refinery in Bukhara to process Kodumalak oil, renovate an existing refinery in Fergana and develop the Shurtan gas deposit.

Karimov told Khuang that current Uzbek reforms could hardly be successful without the World Bank's support.

Russia Owed 200 Million Rubles for Fuel, Energy

LD1512224794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2230 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tashkent, Dec 15 (Interfax)—Interfax has learned that Uzbekistan's debt to Russia for fuel and energy for ten months of this year totals 200 million rubles. Before the end of this year shipments of Russian oil to the republic should reach three million tonnes of oil.

Foreign Observer Meets Central Electoral Commission Chief

LD1512121594 Tashkent PRAVDA VOSTOKA in Russian 15 Dec 94 p1

[FBIS Translated Text] On 14 December, Kudratilla Akhmedov, the chairman of the Central Electoral Commission of Uzbekistan met Daniel Blessington, the representative of the international fund for supporting electoral systems.

Akhmedov briefed the guest on the progress of the preparations for the elections, which for the first time will be held on a multiparty basis, stressing that the election campaign in the republic is taking place in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution and the norms of democracy. He dwelled on the activities of local polling stations and campaign meetings between candidates and the electorate.

Mr. Blessington expressed confidence that the long experience of the international fund for supporting electoral systems will be very useful during the elections for the first parliament of independent Uzbekistan and assured Akhmedov of its readiness to cooperate.

During the conversation an exchange of views took place on questions connected to practical preparations for the elections and coverage of the election campaign in the media. Mr. Blessington also met media representatives.

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Armenia

Armenian Concerns in Chechnya Crisis

954F0630B Yerevan RESPUBLIKA ARMENIYA in Russian 13 Dec 94 p 1

[Armen Khanbabyan report: "The Chechen Crisis: Past the Point of No Return? The Further Development of Events in Chechnya Could Seriously Destabilize the Situation in Russia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The military and political situation has been aggravated to the utmost in the North Caucasus in recent days. Exasperated by the failures at the Budapest summit of leaders of members of the CSCE, at which Russia failed to obtain support on practically all matters of urgency for it, the Kremlin has resolved to "show strength and character" in Chechnya. The statement of Bill Clinton, who called the Chechen problem "Russia's internal affair," expressing here the hope that it would be resolved with "little bloodshed," also contributed to this. It has become clear that Washington, while having blocked Moscow's attempts to bar the admittance to NATO of a number of East European countries and to settle the Karabakh crisis individually, gave the Kremlin carte blanche for a solution of the "internal" Chechen question. Immediately after this, President Yeltsin ordered the troops to advance on Groznyy, encircle the city, and embark on the "restoration of constitutional order."

Events subsequently began to develop not simply impetuously but, evidently, according to a scenario that had not been entirely calculated by Kremlin analysts. The support that had been promised Dudayev earlier by representatives of certain autonomies of the Caucasus and that had appeared to be more a move in the propaganda war began to assume quite an objective nature. Volunteers of the Confederation of Mountain Peoples began to converge on Groznyy. R. Aushev, the leader of Ingushetia, closed off all routes into Chechnya traversing the territory that he controls. In addition, the Ingush blocked one of the Russian armored columns advancing on Groznyy. After the fighting, in which there were killed and wounded, the Russians turned back in this sector. A permanent large demonstration in support of Dudayev is being staged in Groznyy itself, and the city is being controlled by regular Chechen formations reinforced by volunteer squads.

Quite a serious situation has come about in this connection in Moscow itself also. The State Duma has taken an extremely negative view of the bellicose steps of the president and, according to certain information, is preparing to announce Yeltsin's impeachment. The left wing of the Russian Parliament intends, by all accounts, to enter into an open engagement with the head of state. On this occasion, the situation is further complicated by the fact that the power methods of a resolution of the conflict are being emphatically opposed also by the democrats headed by Gaydar and Yavlinskiy. The latter even headed a protest demonstration that was staged in the Russian capital on Sunday. In response, A. Kozyrev, head of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, quit the Russia's Choice faction.

It is obvious that the criticism on the part of parliament and even the possibility of impeachment will cause B. Yeltsin little concern. The Russian leader has already shown once "who's boss in the country," having broken up the rebellious Supreme Soviet without sufficient legal authority for this. There is no doubt that, today, with the constitutional right to dissolve the State Duma, he would not, if necessary, fail to avail himself of it.

The problem, of course, is not this but the impasse nature of the situation itself. The Russians cannot retreat: this would be perceived unequivocally as a symbol of Moscow's total impotence and incapacity. An offensive, however, is fraught with the possibility of thousands of casualties on both sides and, which is no less pertinent, the loss of support on the part of the centrists and democrats.

Despite Washington's benevolent neutrality, the present Kremlin leadership is running the risk of substituting for its liberal international image the reputation of killers and oppressors, whatever statements concerning the need to "restore order" accompany the military operation in Chechnya. The departure of the democrats for the opposition, however, and the dissolution of parliament that would be obvious in this case would bring about the need for an extraordinary, practically uncontrolled broadening of the powers of the president and the government. The very process of the formation of democracy in Russia would be in great jeopardy, and the country, it is perfectly probable, could take the monarchist-authoritarian route. It is not hard to imagine the reaction to this of the international community.

The point, however, is that even the swift suppression of the open resistance in Chechnya and the opposition in Moscow would not really resolve a single problem. Of course, a second Caucasus War (in its classical image, with Abreks and naibs) is hardly conceivable: Times have changed. But it is a fact that the whole of North Caucasus would for a long time become a region of instability. A guerrilla campaign would begin, and bridges, railroads, and other lines of communication would be blown up. The resolute Dudayev, who has already declared that "it will be necessary to speak with Russia in the language of blood," is perfectly capable of organizing a series of sensational acts of terrorism and power actions both in Moscow itself and in other large cities of Russia. The rebel general would become a fighter for the faith, in which he would undoubtedly be supported by individual Muslim leaders. Russia, on the other hand, which has still not overcome the "Afghan syndrome," could sink into the mire of national-patriotic hysteria, and the treatment of this disease would be a very complex business and one that would be beyond the powers of Russia itself, of course. Historical experience

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testifies that mankind cures such a disease by way of the exertion of all its powers and possibilities.

In any event, all that is happening at this time in Chechnya "and around it" is cause for the most profound regret and great concern. A considerable number of our compatriots live in the North Caucasus, and the uninterrupted activity of the infrastructures in this region is of vital importance to Armenia. Nor can we remain indifferent to the political instability and confusion threatening Russia. There is a great desire, therefore, for the Chechen crisis to find a peaceful, civilized, and democratic solution and for the trends toward a negative development of events, in Moscow itself included, to be overcome. But it would seem that these are merely pious wishes that lack a sufficiently serious foundation. Yeltsin is today, it would seem, repeating all the mistakes that were formerly made in Karabakh by Gorbachev: carrot and stick are being alternated convulsively, and calls for "suppression" and "assured legality" are replaced by directives concerning "an improvement in the socioeconomic conditions" of the life of the population. We can imagine what the population, which has several times already experienced in full the "charms" of the attacks of the Russian Air Force, thinks of all this. This is why, as far as we can tell, the point of no return to peace has already been passed. It remains to wait and see what happens next.

Turkey Builds Military Airport Near Ararat

954F0630A Yerevan RESPUBLIKA ARMENIYA in Russian 10 Dec 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "...Alongside Ararat"]

[FBIS Translated Text] This October, Turkey began the construction of the Agri large military airport in the vicinity of Mt. Ararat.

According to the Turkish press, the construction of this facility pursues the purpose of intensifying control over the Armenian-Turkish border and the Kurdish insurgents.

Not far from the Agri Airport, which will be equipped with a 3- kilometer runway, one further airport is being erected in Igdir.

Kharabakh Official Supports Non-Turkish Observers

NC1512163194 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0849 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Stepanakert ("Azg" daily), 12/14/94—Despite relative calmness at the fronts, headquarters of the RMK [Republic of Mountainous Karabakh] defense army report significant concentration of equipment and engineering operations by the enemy at eastern and south-eastern directions

Concerning peaceful resolution of the conflict RMK Foreign Minister Arkadi Ghukasian said Mountainous Kharabakh speaks for stationing international observers in the conflict zone, since there are no guarantees today for not resuming military operations. If any one of the sides violates cease-fire tomorrow, there will be no legal basis to condemn such a violation. Therefore stationing international observers is very important for improving the cease- fire.

According to Ghukasian, there is mutual absence of trust between the sides, and in case of violation of cease-fire, the sides will be accusing each other. In such conditions objective opinion of the observers will become decisive. In addition to this, RMK Foreign Minister believes that observers will also play a restraining role for the sides.

Azerbaijan is against stationing these forces since they believe this will result in freezing of the conflict for indefinite time.

According to Mr. Ghukasian, resolution of the conflict is impossible without stationing disengagement forces. "We have no special preference to these or that forces and believe that any mediation efforts, serving to resolution of the conflict, should be greeted. The Kharabakh side agrees to stationing of either Russian or international forces. But, as previously, we mind Turkish participation in any peace course", he noted. Such a position of Kharabakh is understood by politicians in Russia and Europe. There even exists an oral agreement, to be affirmed in short time, according to which no country may send troops to the conflict zone without agreement of the sides.

Greece Willing To Send 10 Officers To Conflict Zone

NC1512163494 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0849 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan ("Yerkir" daily - Haylour), 12/14/94—CSCE congress, held in Budapest last week, discussed stationing of disengagement forces in Kharabakh

Though stationing of 3,000 soldiers has not been clarified yet, nevertheless Greece offered to send 10 their officers to the conflict zone. Turkey has been against this offer of Greece, being against Russian and Greek participation in this mission. They declared that Turkish military participation is the only guarantee to establish peace in the region.

Greece was planning to involve the officers, who participated in demilitarization operations in Northern Iraq.

Azerbaijan

President Addresses ICO Summit in Casablanca

LD1512201094 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 1453 GMT 15 Dec 94

[Speech by President Geydar Aliyev at the final session of the Islamic Conference Organization summit in Casablanca—live, in Azeri]

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[FBIS Translated Text] Honorable chairman, your majesties, your excellencies, dear brothers and sisters: I am honored to be given the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Asian states at the Islamic Conference Organization and I assess it highly.

Taking advantage of this opportunity, I would like to express my profound gratitude to our dear brother His Majesty King Hassan II, who is one of the founders of the ICO and a distinguished political figure well known in the whole world, and also to the friendly and fraternal people of Morocco for the trouble they have undertaken to organize the summit and for the attention and concern they have shown to us.

These days we became witnesses to the very fruitful efforts of Hamid Algabid, secretary general of the ICO, and the secretariat as a whole in further strengthening the brotherhood between our countries. Because of this, I express my sincerest gratitude.

I hope that the 7th Casablanca summit will be a new phase in further strengthening the solidarity of the Muslims of the world and increasing the influence and power of Muslim states. The conference also creates a wide range of facilities to make the world community understand more precisely the difficulties and problems the Islamic world is facing. With a profound feeling of gratitude I must point out that the 7th summit is characterized by the increasing activity of all Muslim states, especially countries that are in Asia, and by their wider representation at the ICO. In the past three years the fact that the ranks of the ICO increased from 45 to 52 is obvious proof of what I have said.

Undoubtedly, the decisions that we adopt here will constitute a (?symbolic) gift for the solution of problems facing the whole Islamic world, especially Muslim countries of Asia. A number of Muslim countries of Asia that have regained their independence, including Azerbaijan, feel a great necessity for the attention and concern of the ICO. Because these countries are facing both grave problems, which they inherited from the past, and natural difficulties that consolidation of independence is creating. These include the aggravating economic crisis, difficulties created by the transitional period due to changes in the social and political system, wars to which some countries were subjected, economic blockades, and various political pressures. The shedding of fraternal blood in Tajikistan and Afghanistan, problems of Kashmir and Palestine, the aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan that has been going on for six years, and dozens of other problems are creating serious anxiety today.

Pointing to the painful problems of Asia at the conference with deep concern will give us comfort and an optimism that is linked with 50 years [sentence as heard]. The solution of the problems that we are facing would be much easier with economic and political assistance of friendly and fraternal Muslim countries. We wish that the ICO would further increase its influence and efforts in eliminating the existing tension, extinguishing the fire of war, helping to return those who had to flee their homes, and putting an end to innocent people's blood being shed.

Allow me to assure you that the Muslim states of the Asian region, including Azerbaijan, will constantly increase their efforts to consistently implement resolutions adopted within the activities of the ICO and the summit, and will do all they can to further increase the influence of this organization.

Once again, I congratulate you on the successful conclusion of the 7th summit of the ICO. I wish happiness and peace to you and your peoples and Muslim brothers and sisters. I would like to assure you that the ICO will be more active and more powerful and will occupy its specific and suitable position in world politics in the future.

Premier Receives Visiting Bulgarian Transportation Minister

NC1512183594 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Council of Minister's press service reported that on 14 December Azerbaijan's Acting Prime Minister Fuad Guliyev received a delegation of businessmen and experts lead by Bulgarian Transportation Minister (?Kovachev).

Mr. Kovachev said that he brought greetings and a letter from the Bulgarian President Zhelyu Zhelev to the Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev.

The head of the Bulgarian delegation, which arrived in our republic with some business proposals, stated that they desire to cooperate in establishing joint ventures; organizing land, sea, and rail transportation; opening the Baku-Sofia air route; investing; as well as other activities.

Considering the interesting nature of the proposals, Fuad Guliyev issued instructions for their careful consideration at the Council of Ministers and at relevant ministries, firms, and enterprises.

Government Denies Troops Sent to Chechnya

954F0634A Baku GUNAY in Russian 14 Dec 94 p 1

[NOVOSTI report]

[FBIS Translated Text] "The Azerbaijan Republic has often been mentioned in the mass media in Russia and Armenia in recent days in connection with the events in Chechnya"—it was reported in a statement issued by the press center of the republic Ministry of Defense. Thus, the document notes that NEGA, citing Armenian sources, has disseminated information on Azerbaijan's withdrawal of combat units from the front and their dispatch to Chechnya.

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The document further states that accusations alleging that the republic sent a military contingent to Chechnya constitute nothing more than another in a series of provocations issued by Armenian propaganda pursuing the aim of exacerbating the already adverse situation in the Caucasus and casting a shadow on relations between Azerbaijan and Russia.

Parties, Muslim Leader Oppose Russian Force in Chechnya

MK1512124094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 15 Dec 94 p 2

[Report by Arif Useynov under the "Neighbors" rubric: "Muslim Cleric Worries Over Chechnya and Urges Russia To Separate Chechen People From Dudayev"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is impossible to subdue Chechnya by force of arms; behind Chechnya are the peoples of the Caucasus, underlines a statement, promulgated 14 December, of the Democratic Congress, which unites more than 20 political parties and public organizations of Azerbaijan. The statement is addressed to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali and Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin. The Congress leaders, the newspaper HURRIYET explains, call upon Russia's leadership to "regard the Chechen people with well-deserved respect and not to take out on them their grudge against Dzhokhar Dudayev."

Shaykh-ul-Islam Gaddzhi Allahshukyur Pashazade, chairman of the Supreme Spiritual Council of Muslims of the Caucasus, has come out with a sharp protest against the use of Russian arms in Chechnya. The leader of the Muslim clergy turned for support to the Islamic Conference, insisting that this organization's authority be used to prevent bloodshed in Chechnya. "It is not by force of arms but by a wise policy that Russia may win the respect of the peoples of the Caucasus," the shaykh-ul-Islam stated, appealing 14 December from the pages of the parliamentary newspaper AZERBAIJAN to believers and the world public.

Remarkably, the numerous commentaries on the developments in Chechnya draw a clear line between the destinies of the Chechen people and the actions of General Dudayev. In the opinion of observers, Russia's leadership should have considered this circumstance in preparing the military action in the Northern Caucasus. In the headquarters of national-patriotically oriented parties in Baku, they willingly comment on the situation in the Northern Caucasus, invariably stressing confirmations of the fears voiced earlier regarding a "colonial essence" of Russia's policy in the Caucasus. It was stated to your SEGODNYA correspondent in the headquarters of "Musavat"—the party of national rebirth of Azerbaijan—that in the wake of the bloodbath in Chechnya they have lost trust in Russia as a peacemaker in the settlement of the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Georgia

Shevardnadze's Office: Chechnya Cause of Alert in Abkhazia

LD1512192694 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1500 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Listen to a statement issued by the press secretariat of the Georgian head of state:

In its 14 December bulletin, The Novosti program broadcast that because of a military threat from the Georgian side the Abkhazian Armed Forces were brought to full combat readiness.

Regarding the dissemination of rumors like this by the Abkhazian party as a blatant provocation, the Press Secretariat of the Georgian head of state is authorized to declare that this sort of misinformation about a military threat is devoid of any foundation because, as repeatedly said in the speeches by the chairman of the Georgian parliament and head of state, the Republic of Georgia supports a political and peaceful way of settling the conflict in Abkhazia. Assuming full responsibility, we declare that this careless and slanderous version should be regarded as a deliberate distortion of facts, because the full combat readiness has been declared in Abkhazia in connection with the current processes in Chechnya rather than with a nonexistent danger from beyond the Inguri River.

The Abkhaz separatists are not concealing their stance with regard to the current developments in Chechnya, but this stance is not similar to that of the majority of the displaced people from Abkhazia. History shows that an aggressive separatism often ends in failure. This will be the case this time, too, and all the efforts of the participants in the peaceful settlement will eventually come to a successful end.

Shevardnadze Meets With Senior French Diplomat

NC1512200694 Yerevan SNARK in English 1325 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tbilisi, December 15. (SNARK)—Today, Eduard Shevardnadze received the Secretary General of French Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Georgia Bertrand Dufourcq.

As SNARK was informed in the President's press-secretariat, in a course of talks Mr. Dufourcq confirmed the position of Paris concerning Abkhazian conflict, which may be expressed as respect of territorial integrity of Georgia.

Secretary General of French Foreign Policy Department arrived in Georgia to get acquainted with present-day political and economic situation of the country.

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French Official Expresses Support

LD1512182794 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1500 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian parliament and head of state, met Bertrand Dufourcq, French foreign ministry secretary general, on 15 December.

Mr. Dufourcq conveyed to Shevardnadze greetings and best regards from the French president and people. He said that the aim of his visit to Georgia was to promote the development of bilateral relations and the extension of the cooperation between the two countries.

Dufourcq expressed a desire to acquaint himself with the current political and economic processes in Georgia and to draft ways and methods which will serve as a basis for stirring up the cooperation between Georgia and France. The visitor attached special attention to the fact that France shows great interest in Georgia and supports the efforts taken by the Georgian authorities to implement economic reforms in the present difficult circumstances. France has always and will further actively support the principle of Georgia's territorial integrity at the CSCE, United Nations, and other international organizations. This must be the expression of a common interest of all the European and world countries.

Dufourcq also expressed interest in the issues concerning a peaceful and political settlement of the processes in Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region and the complicated political situation in the North Caucasus.

Shevardnadze thanked the French visitor for the support the French authorities express towards Georgia. He also said that without the support rendered by friendly countries Georgia would find it extremely difficult to escape from this grave situation. He also expressed gratitude for the assistance provided to Georgia by the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the CSCE contribution of France into which was great. Shevardnadze spoke about the current political and economic processes and said that despite hardships and difficulties, Georgia had chosen the way of achieving significant shifts by restructuring its economy. He pointed out that a new Georgian constitution had already been drafted and would shortly be discussed. Shevardnadze said that a peaceful settlement of the Abkhazian issue and the return of the displaced people to their domicile was the problem of a primary importance for Georgia. In this connection, Shevardnadze emphasized that the more concern the international organizations expressed towards the issue, the sooner it will be settled. As far as the Tskhinvali region is concerned, the peaceful process is already under way.

At the end of the meeting, the parties expressed deep conviction that Georgia will pass the necessary stages of the establishment of democracy, it will find its way out of the current crisis, and will actively cooperate with the rest of the world.

Russian 'Imperialist Forces' Blamed for Leader's Murder

AU1512155594 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 6 Dec 94 p 1

["Statement by the National-Democratic Party (NDP)"; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 3 December, at approximately 1000, NDP Chairman Giorgi Chanturia was riddled with bullets in his car outside his home and died on arrival in hospital. His wife, Irina Sarishvili, and two NDP members are in serious condition.

This terrorist act was committed by Russia's imperialist forces and Georgia's anti-democratic mafia groupings that are not seeking the formation of a lawful independent state and it suits them to get rid of progressive forces that are fighting for Georgia.

Responsibility for this fact lays with Georgia's current authorities that, on account of their criminal and passive position, have set in motion an antistate policy.

The NDP press center.

Pledge to Improve Gas, Energy Supplies

LD1512164594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1512 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tbilisi, December 15 (Interfax)—Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze told a conference of the government ministers and economy managers in Tbilisi on December 14 that order will reign in the energy and gas supply in the country in 1995. He promised that everybody would have to pay for gas and energy consumption.

It was reported at the conference that the Georgian power network owed the budget about 55 trillion coupons ($1 = 1.41 million coupons) while the gas consumers owed 63 trillion coupons.

The speakers at the conference also said that the power of operational Georgian stations was as little as 700 MW, one 15th to one 20th of the necessary amount.

Shevardnadze said that if the industries did not resume work, the 273 trillion coupons deficit-free 1995 budget drafted by Finance Minister Davit Iakobidze would not be worth much.

Energy Supply Reportedly Severely Curtailed

NC1512200594 Yerevan SNARK in English 1325 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tbilisi, December 15. (SNARK)—From today on only Georgian life security objects and strategically important territories are supplied with energy. The cause was last Wednesday [14 December] cut of energy from Inguri Hydro.

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SNARK was informed in "Gruzenergo" Department, that at present all the load is on the 10th block of Tbilisi State Hydro. The 9th block of this electric station is intended to be exploited, which will somehow improve the situation of energy supply, until I [item incomplete as received]

Sarishvili Vows To Continue 'Struggle for Statehood'

AU1512214894 Tbilisi KAVKASIONI in Georgian 6 Dec 94 p 1, 2

[KAVKASIONI interview with Irina Sarishvili, leader of the National-Democratic faction; place and date not given: "Let the Enemies Not Rejoice"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Kalbatoni [Georgian polite form of address] Irina Sarishvili learned of her husband's [Giorgi Chanturia, chairman of the National-Democratic Party] death only on the morning of 5 December. On top of her fairly serious condition, she experienced the great suffering caused by the loss of someone close. However, it should be pointed out that her spiritual vigor has not diminished in her emaciated body. We saw the seriously wounded lady who had lost a lot of blood and was shaken by the death of her husband and, yet, this was the Irina the whole of Georgia knows, only now more determined and unyielding. Whoever thought that it would be possible to break and frighten her by submitting her to physical ordeal was seriously mistaken. Clearly, given this situation, the traditional interview did not take place. Kalbatoni Irina will, thank God, recover and speak to the country.**

On this occasion, we propose a short recorded conversation with her.

[Sarishvili] I do not consider it expedient to talk in public about the pain that Gia's loss has caused me. This is my burden that I must bear. However, as a politician, as his fellow comrade-in-arms, and as an ordinary citizen, I have to say that Georgia has lost an important figure on whom the country's future depended to a large extent. Whoever it was who planned this has resolved to kill Georgia. I will not say anything about the killers; it is enough that these poor devils have rejected humanity. The culprits are the organizers and those who gain from anarchy.

After all this and after all that has happened before, the security minister [Igor Giorgadze] should do the proper thing and resign. How much longer should we have to put up with this wave of armed violence? If this is happening to avoid a conflict with someone or other, then it makes even less sense. I stated earlier that the attempt to put an artificial halt to a conflict will result in more losses and bloodshed. This has indeed happened. What are we now waiting for? Fresh bloodshed?!

Had Gia been given the chance, he could have done many great things; nevertheless, he did manage to accomplish a huge amount. The National-Democratic Party is a tightly-knit political organization whose fighting spirit cannot be diminished by the death of Giorgi Chanturia himself. We do not have the right to display weakness; I view the struggle for Georgian statehood as the greatest manifestation of our devotion to Gia's memory.

Gia managed to do a lot. I say this as his comrade-in-arms. We did not speak about it openly but, inside, we probably expected something like to happen. We both consciously chose this path in life. I do not regret it, especially now after what has happened. Gia sacrificed himself for the aim for which he came into this world. I also do not intend to stray from this path. They cannot frighten me with death. Let the enemies not rejoice... and don't you be afraid. Georgia will not be conquered!

Young Communist League Holds Constituent Assembly

AU1512215094 Tbilisi KOMUNISTI in Russian 8 Dec 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "The Young Communist League of Georgia Has Been Restored"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As we have already informed you, on the initiative of the young people of a number of towns and rayons in the republic, the constituent assembly of the republican Young Communist League was held in Tbilisi on 29 October. This important event in the life of the Georgian communist movement was preceded by extensive and fruitful work carried out by the youth department of the United Communist Party of Georgia [UCPG] Central Committee.

The constituent assembly took place in a business-like and principled atmosphere. Young Communists, no matter who it was, spoke about the situation that has taken shape in the country.

The assembly elected the republican committee bureau for preparing the regular congress of the Young Communist League of Georgia that will take place on 20 December 1994.

UCPG Chairman Panteleymon Georgadze participated in the work of the constituent assembly and delivered a speech.

The first plenum of the Young Communist League Central Committee has taken place. David Kaladze was elected acting first secretary of the Young Communist League Central Committee.

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Estonia

Russia Protests Tallinn Embassy Demonstration

LD1512172194 Tallinn Estonian Television Network in Russian 1645 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian Foreign Ministry sent a protest note to the Estonian Foreign Ministry today concerning the pro-Chechnya demonstration held yesterday near the Russian Embassy in Tallinn. The note states that the Estonian authorities behaved irresponsibly by allowing the demonstration. The Russian Foreign Ministry also claims that those who took part in the demonstration hindered the embassy's work and obstructed traffic outside the embassy building.

Official: No 'Russian Underground Armed Movement'

WS1612103194 Tallinn ETA in English 1518 GMT 15 Dec 94

["News Release"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Head of Estonian Defence Police Juri Pihl refuted on Thursday [15 December] an article by the Russian language MOLODJOZH ESTONII newspaper which stated that there exists a Russian underground armed movement in Estonia.

The MOLODJOZH ESTONII newspaper Thursday issue gives a detailed review of several armed and well-prepared military groups which would be able to take power at a necessary moment. The article describes preparation of these groups and the conspiracy regulations and adds that possible terrorism by them must also be taken into account.

Juri Pihl told ETA commenting upon the article that it can be considered provocative. "We have no information that such groups exist in Estonia," Pihl said. He added that neither exists there any information that such groups are being prepared.

Belgian Foreign Minister Meets Leaders, Views EU, NATO

LD1512150494 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1800 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Belgian Foreign Minister Frank Vandenbrouke has ended his Estonian visit. He had meetings with President Lennart Meri, Prime Minister Andres Tarand, and Foreign Minister Juri Luik. He had also a discussion with representatives of the ethnic minorities' roundtable group. Erik Samel reports.

[Samel] According to what the Belgian foreign minister said, his meetings with Estonian leaders proceeded in an open atmosphere. [passage omitted]

The European Union's strategy over the union's expansion was under discussion. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Vandenbroucke in English fading into superimposed Estonian translation] The Belgian foreign minister emphasized that there must be no discrimination between different countries over the expansion of the European Union [EU]. All countries that have already signed or will be signing association agreements with the EU are at the same starting position. [passage omitted]

Tomorrow Estonia will be holding talks to this end [leading to association agreement] in Brussels. The Belgian foreign minister voiced his hope that Estonia would be able to sign the agreement soon. Thereafter, Estonia would be party to the process that is called a structural political dialogue. It means constant political consultation and discussion of all the union's issues. [passage omitted]

As far as the EU and NATO expansion processes are concerned, we are talking about two different processes, according to what the Belgian foreign minister stated. There are, however, some parallels. In both case the joining process is as essential as the gaining of membership. Both processes have their interim stages. For NATO it is the Partnership for Peace program. For the EU, it is the associated member status.

Foreign Minister Juri Luik who also spoke at the news conference and pointed to the cooperation of Benelux countries as a model for the Baltic states in respect of foreign policy and economic cooperation. Estonia and Belgium have not as yet concluded crucial agreements on the protection of investments and avoidance of double taxation, so necessary for the development of economic cooperation. According to Juri Luik, the two foreign ministers decided that work on the conclusion of these agreements must be completed urgently. [end recording]

Decision to Leave Ferry Estonia on Baltic Seabed

LD1512170994 Tallinn Estonian Television Network in Russian 1645 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Swedish Government decided today not to raise the sunken ferry Estonia from the Baltic seabed, with the bodies of over 900 dead on board. [passage omitted] The Estonian Government also decided today that the ferry and the bodies should be left on the seabed.

Parliament Adopts 1995 Budget; Finance Minister Comments

LD1512132794 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1800 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] We will begin with the riigikogu's [parliament] working day today. Urmas Loit takes over.

[Loit] With an overwhelming majority of votes, the riigikogu adopted next year's budget, after its third

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reading. Finance Commission Chairman Valve Kirsipuu expressed genuine pleasure with this decision.

[Begin Kirsipuu recording] [passage omitted] On the whole, the 1995 budget has been built so that all state officials are due for a salary increase—and not at all a small one compared with what they already received this year. It is clear that salary increases will be greater in some departments than for all state officials. I have in mind mainly the Defense Ministry and Interior Ministry staff here. Their work involves a high degree of responsibility. The state understands that we need a greater sense of security than we have at present, if we can speak of a sense of security at all. For this reason we endeavor to channel more funds into this area.

Today it turned out, right when the budget was adopted, that the budget will amount to a total of 8,797,200,000 kroons. A major part is made up of increased salaries for state officials and about one-third of it will be investments. Over the past two years we have been operating with very small amounts for investments. [passage omitted]

I would also say that the largest amount from our budget next year will go to the Ministry of Culture and Education. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Loit] How would Finance Minister Andres Lipstok comment on the adopted budget?

[Begin Lipstok recording] The amendments made by the riigikogu have not altered the, let us say, the idea of the budget that the government had in mind at the time of putting it together. The fact is that the amendments made here and the amounts moved around will not endanger the fulfillment of the budget. Even on the revenue side, the figures added—which is about 60 million in turnover tax—are precisely within the limits, which on paper allows us to think that the budget will stay in balance, and that is the most important thing. [end recording]

Latvia

Latvia, Russia Commend Agreements Signed 14 Dec

LD1512191794 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1700 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian and Latvian Foreign Ministries have commended consultations held in Moscow on 14 December and agreements signed there regulating consular work and tackling issues related to migration of residents, said Maris Riekstins, state secretary at the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to reporters today after returning from Moscow. Another four interstate agreements on transport issues will possibly be signed by the end of this year. A visit by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev to Latvia could take place at the beginning of next year.

A plan of future cooperation was proposed to Russia, in which mixed intergovernmental commissions would be drafting other agreements. The need to expand the sphere of activity of the Russian consulate general in Liepaja in western Latvia and the possibility of opening a Latvian representation in Siberia were also discussed.

Saeima Condemns 'Russian Military Agression' in Chechnya

LD1512185194 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1800 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] At today's plenary session the Saeima deputies passed a resolution condemning the Russian military aggression in the Chechen Republic and an appeal to support the Chechen people's aspirations to self-determination.

The document says: The Saeima of the Republic of Latvia, supporting rights of nations for self-determination, calls on the president of the Russian Federation, the Federation Council, and the State Duma to take the necessary measures so that the military operations, which are causing deaths in the civilian population, end in Chechnya without delay; take measures to withdraw the Russian Army; and take measure to reach a peaceful solution through talks.

Foreign Minister Leaves for EU Talks in Brussels

LD1512130594 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1000 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Talks between the European Union [EU] and the Baltic states on concluding associate agreements are beginning in Brussels today [15 December]. Latvian Foreign Minister Valdis Birkavs has also left for Brussels. At the end of November, the European Union Council agreed to a proposal to begin talks with the Baltic states. The council has approved the European Commission's mandate for talks, with the terms for talks laid down in it that are the same as those for the countries of the Visegrad group.

Lithuania

Negotiations Between EU, Baltic States Begin in Brussels

LD1512182194 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1700 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The European Union and the three Baltic states officially started negotiations on associate membership in Brussels today.

In the opening ceremony Lithuanian Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys said that Lithuania regards associate membership in the European Union as a step toward full membership.

Leon Brittan, trade representative of the European Commission, stresssed the need to complete negotiations

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with the Baltic states as soon as possible so that they can stand together next year with other six Eastern states—Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Bulgaria, and Romania—striving for full membership.

Albinas Januska, secretary of the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry and head of the Lithuanian negotiators, said in an interview with Baltic News Service that the drafting of the agreement should be completed in two or three rounds of negotiations, and the agreement could be signed in the spring.

The first working round will be held in Brussels on 18 January. Association with the European Union will create conditions for Lithuania to prepare for a complete integration in European political, economic, and security structures.

Parliament Offers 'Mission of Good Will' to Chechnya

WS1512153894 Tallinn BNS in English 1041 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Dec 15, BNS—The Lithuanian parliament adopted a resolution on the situation in Chechnya Wednesday [14 December] night and offered a "mission of good will" to help restore peace in that Caucasian republic.

The parliament had earlier intended not to make any mention of mediation, but later decided to add a clause obliging the parliament's board to approve a delegation made up of representatives from all factions, which would mediate the conflict if such a request is made by both Russia and Chechnya.

The decision and the resolution were approved by a 44-1 vote, with 1 abstention. The resolution calls for a peaceful solution to the crisis in Chechnya and also urges sides to respect human rights and the rights of nations.

Brazauskas Introduces Supreme Court Chairman Candidate

WS1612102694 Tallinn BNS in English 1643 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Dec 15, BNS—Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas on Thursday [15 December] in parliament introduced his candidates for Supreme Court chairman and prosecutor general.

As reported, Pranas Kuris, a member of the European Human Rights Court, and Vladas Nikitinas, chief judge of the District Court in Vilnius, have been proposed for the posts, respectively.

The opposition Conservative faction criticized the nomination of Kuris on the grounds that the Constitution does not allow the Supreme Court chairman to hold two posts at a time, while the candidate would retain his place in the European Human Rights Court even if he is approved for a job in Lithuania.

Brazauskas contended that the law on courts only bars judges from work that is unrelated to courts, therefore he says the nomination does not contradict the Constitution.

The president said he selected Nikitinas for the post of prosecutor general after no other candidates were named during a meeting with faction leaders on Wednesday.

The nominations will now be discussed in parliamentary committees and should be put to the vote next Tuesday.

Kuris is the first candidate for Supreme Court chairman, while Nikitinas is already the president's third choice for prosecutor general.

The parliament earlier rejected the candidacy of Justinas Vasiliauskas, head of the Interior Ministry's Investigations Department. Brazauskas later offered the job to Parliament Vice Chairman Egidijus Bickauskas, but the lawmaker turned down the proposal after consultations with his Center Union.

Seimas Adopts State Budget for 1995

LD1512220394 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1700 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Lithuanian Seimas approved the state budget for next year and the deductions to the budgets of local councils and for subsidies.

In the roll call vote 56 Seimas members were for the budget, 41 were against, and 10 members abstained. The Seimas opposition may attempt to protest the results of the voting, Baltic News Service reports.

Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius said at a news conference today that the government was trying to draft a socially orientated budget. The financing of health care, education, and agriculture will be higher next year. In addition, more funds will be allocated for the courts, the procuracy, and other law enforcement institutions, Baltic News Service reports.

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